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The Tribune.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1861.

GENERAL JOHN POPE.

Aside from the patriotic gratification which we feel, in consequence of the recent brilliant success of Gen. Pope in Missouri, we are glad that the General himself, has had an opportunity to justify the confidence which the President and his friends reposed in his military sagacity. During the time in which Gen. Fremont was in command in that State, the people of Illinois, knowing Pope's zeal in the cause and his early training in his profession, began to fear that he was not the man for the rank he had attained. We knew all the while that his embarrassments and seeming want of success did not proceed from his own inability to act promptly and well, but from the orders of the Commander of the Department who was neither capable of doing anything himself, nor generous enough to permit any one of his subordinates to eclipse him. That campaign in Northern Missouri, from which so much had been expected and that had such ridiculous, rather than inglorious, results, for which Gen. Pope has been so severely blamed, was made in defiance of his own wishes and in disregard of his advice from beginning to end. It was a series of blunders from first to last, and to Gen. Pope's credit be it said, that he remonstrated against them singly, as they were made inevitable by the orders that he received, and that his protests were at one time so vigorous as to threaten his arrest. If he had been at liberty to set himself right with the public by publication of the facts, he would not have needed the vindication which only a battle and a victory could give him as long as his lips were sealed.

FEELING OF THE IRISH.

England's endless and needless oppression of Ireland bears fruit, even at this distance from the scene of tyranny and misgovernment. In the event of the declaration of war by Great Britain against the United States, by reason of the Mason-Slidell affair, or for any other reason which will probably arise, the Irish Americans of this country will, to a man, be found with arms in their hands, the most thoroughly loyal, enthusiastic and determined of the enemies that England will be called upon to meet. They have done much toward swelling the armies now in the field for the subjugation of the South; but their exertions are feeble compared with those which they will put forth when their hereditary oppressors are arrayed in arms against the Government which shelters and protects all men alike, without distinction of race or faith. If we must fight, let the Irish Americans, commanded by an Irish officer of distinction, take the Canadas under their protection; and, our word for it, that, in a single campaign, there would not, outside of the fortifications of Quebec, be a single British regiment left to oppose their progress or prevent the annexation of those Provinces to the United States. We commend the suggestion to the Government at Washington, and to Irishmen everywhere, the adoption of which, as soon as Spring opens, will be a National necessity.

THE MADISONIAN POLICY.

The belligerent aspect of our foreign affairs will inevitably give a new spring and fresh energy to the war for the preservation of the Union. "One thing at a time," says President Lincoln, and if we are to have another war soon, the one in hand must be vigorously disposed of. New zeal will be infused into our army, the people, and the Government, and that to the end of union to carry on the war with all the means in our power. Among these, in the proper time for it, would inevitably be the four millions of black Unionists, who are ready to help us against all enemies, as Madison suggested they should be used in our first war against England. He wrote from Philadelphia, November 28, 1780, to a member of the Virginia Legislature:

"Would it not be as well to liberate and make soldiers at once of the blacks themselves as to make them instruments for enlisting white soldiers?"

He continues:

"With white officers, and a majority of white soldiers, no imaginable danger could be feared from themselves, as there certainly could be none from the effect of the example on those who should remain in bondage—experience having shown that a freed man immediately loses all attachment and sympathy with his former fellow-slaves."

This Madisonian policy would make short work with the rebellion, and leave us with hands free to deal with foreign foes. It was not the North that precipitated war upon this country, but it came. It will not be our Government that deliberately provokes a war with England; but if both must come, and at the same time, the people will turn out to meet it, and not shrink from any of its dread *alternatives*.

WHAT WILL THEY DO WITH THEM?

The zealots who see nothing but evil in Mr. Cameron's suggestion that, the confiscated slaves of rebels be organized and armed in all localities where they may usefully serve the Federal cause, have not yet, so far as we know, pointed out any line of policy which they desire the Government to pursue. Will they make the Union a slave proprietor, to breed, flog, work, swap and sell human beings, while we are fighting for the defence of human liberty? Even the malcontents in Kentucky shrink from such an infamous prostitution as that; and no man in the free States has had the hardihood to endorse it. Will they suffer the slaves, as our armies advance, to occupy the country in the rear of our colums, and and make the vengeance of two centuries of bondage on the women and children who may come in their way, and destroy or devastate the country which the whites will leave? A consummation like this has not entered into the conception of the most ferocious hater of the South and Slavery whom we know; and we are ready to acquit all men in the North of fathering or abetting an intention so horrible. What then shall be done—what indeed can be done, save to follow out Mr. Cameron's suggestion and make the slaves useful as an adjunct of our strength now in the field? We assume that it is evident to the most fervid admirer of the institution, that the relation of rebel master and loyal slave in all localities reached by our troops, will be changed; that the chains of bondage will fall off every man who comes under the shadow of the American flag as soon as it is carried into the rebellious States; and that the problem how to provide for the men thus emancipated, is that which we shall, willingly or unwillingly, wisely or unwisely be compelled to be solved. The slaves must not, where they are abandoned by their owners, be driven ahead of our forces and into the rebel line. That would be a species of military suicide of which we have had enough. The question, then, again recurs, what should be done? Mr. Cameron has a positive, practicable, and, we do not hesitate to say, a patriotic policy. He would use all men, black or white, who can be made available—make them drive team, dig trenches, nurse the sick, and, where practicable, fight in the field. Until something better is devised, which, while it aids in the accomplishment of the national purpose, will protect the non-combatants that our army will leave in our rear, and save the country from devastation and waste, let us hear no more of the "radicalisms" of the Secretary of War!

GEN. PHELPS' PROCLAMATION.

In another column we present entire the extraordinary effusion of Brigadier General Phelps, in command at Ship Island, and issued as a Military Proclamation. It is one of the curiosities of modern (pen and ink) warfare. We can assign only one reason why this unhappy, but well meaning Commander, thus committed himself to paper. He was aware of how wide a range his predecessors in proclamations had traveled over, and he desired to *occupy the rest of the ground*. In future, we trust all commanders of expeditions will be kept from writing materials of every description. Gen. Sherman and Gen. Phelps occupy the the two extremes, the golden mean lies between. It is time for our armies to fall at work without this wordy rhodomontade. Gen. Phelps' friends we predict will speedily welcome him home again. His essay is a sad bungle.

☞ The aristocracy of Great Britain earnestly desire the dismemberment and destruction of the Great Republic. Our present extremity is their long wished for opportunity. The United States has been growing too powerful and opulent to suit the notions of the English trading classes; and their Republican form of Government and the large liberties enjoyed by the people are hateful in the sight of the privileged classes. The example of our prosperity and freedom causes the laboring masses of England to long for a similar form of Government. Republicanism has been spreading very rapidly in Great Britain during the past few years, and has given great uneasiness and alarm to the titled aristocracy of Church and State. When the news of the breaking out of the war reached Europe, the British oligarchy danced for joy, exclaiming, "The great "American bubble has bursted! Republi- "canism has proven a failure!" They now seek to place our Union between two rival and hostile nations—Canada and Secessia. Shall we cease saving slavery, and turn in and save the Great Republic from the paws of the British lion and the fangs of the Secession serpent? Let charity begin at home. We fight for National existence and Republican institutions.

HOW EUROPE REGARDS OUR WAR.

The country finds itself stared in the face by a war with England and expresses astonishment. But why should we be amazed? The threatened collision with Great Britain is one of the inevitable fruits of the policy of protecting slavery while trying to try to save the Union.

Reflecting men predicted months ago that we should become embroiled this winter with Great Britain from the do-nothing course our Administration and Generals were pursuing. All Europe sees why our armies obtain little success, and comprehend perfectly, the reason of the feebleness with which the war is prosecuted. They understand that our rulers are afraid of hurting slavery, and consequently cannot be in earnest in the prosecution of the war. Every sensible man in Europe admits that our Government can put down the rebellion whenever it employs the necessary means at its command, and resolutely sets about the work. But it is felt that the war has been conducted on pro-slavery principles, and that the safety of slavery concerned our generals more than the preservation of the Union. A leading London paper declared, before the news of the Trent affair reached there, that—

"The American civil war is a huge faction fight "in which the South fought to establish a slave-"holding Empire out of the fragments of the "Great Republic, and the North fought to keep "the chains on the rebel's bondmen. For never "was a pretence more lying and cowardly than that "this insolent republic, this section of a national-"ity, this vaporing mob, which crowns its general "(McClellan) a Napoleon before he has won a vic-"tory, is *contending for the principle of freedom*. "Woe to the black wretch who fancies that, after "the battle has been fought, and the confederacy "chained, he may escape Northwards unpursued "by the bloodhounds of the fugitive slave law."

This is the universal feeling in Europe and it is idle to expect that the sympathies of the masses will be enlisted on our side, while the war continues to be conducted on pro-slavery principles. Europeans see that the secessionists are in savage earnest, and fight murderously, because they have a fixed idea for which they fight, and that is, the establishment of a Slave Empire; hence, their campaign is fire and sword. European people perceive that the North is intent on conducting the war in the way best calculated to inflict the least possible injury on slavery, under the absurd notion of restoring the *status quo ante bellum*, bringing back the rebels and slaves in the same relative condition of owner and "property" as before the war. The people of Europe have no symyathy and little toleration, for such programme. They would rather see the Great Republic dismembered than to have it restored half free and half slave.

A cotton famine is beginning to rage in England; the stock of cotton is drawing to an end; the financial affairs of that country are becoming alarmingly deranged; vast bodies of workmen are thrown out of employment by the failure of the cotton supply, in consequence of the blockade. The revenues of the British Government are falling off; the exports and imports of the merchants have greatly diminished, and and hard times and distress are settling down on both islands. The cause is attributed to the American war and the blockade. The British people want cotton, and the aristocracy want the Union dissevered. The former, regarding it as a pro-slavery war on both sides, have united with the latter in the purpose of breaking the blockade. If the capture of Mason and Slidell does not furnish sufficient pretext, some other one will be found.

The present method of prosecuting the war repels the sympathies of the people of Europe, creates disgust and contempt, and has the effect of tempting foreign powers to interfere, whose commerce is injured by our contest. The surest way to keep England and France from breaking the blockade and taking sides with the traitors, is to proclaim the freedom of the slaves of the rebels, and call on all loyal men to strike for the salvation and perpetuity of the Union. Had this been done three months ago, the rebellion would have been on its last legs ere now, and there would not be the least danger of foreign interference, cotton or no cotton. Our cruisers might board forty Trent's and the British lion would scarcely growl, because the well wishes and sympathy of the English people would be warmly enlisted in behalf of our cause, and the aristocracy would not be permitted to raise a finger against us. What have we gained by pursuing the opposite course? What have we made by our clumsy efforts to preserve from harm the "sum of all villainies?"

☞ The New York *Herald* Washington correspondent states that new muskets and rifles of the best quality are now coming in fast. The Government will be in receipt of at least one hundred and sixty thousand of the best quality of arms in the next thirty days, and by the 1st of January all the manufactories in the North will begin to deliver to the Government, and afterwards will be able to supply the wants of the army of the United States if it was double its present number. This will close up business with the agents of foreign speculators.

☞ At Belvidere on Tuesday, the brewery of E. Whitworth was destroyed by fire, a loss of $4000.

BETWEEN TWO FIRES.

One of the objects Great Britain has in view in picking a quarrel and going to war with this country, is to place the loyal States between two foreign and hostile powers, and to reduce the territorial limits of this Republic to a long, narrow strip, resembling somewhat the shape of an Hour-glass, with British Canada for a Northern, and Secessia under a British protectorate, for a Southern boundary. The seceded States would owe their independence to British intervention and assistance, and their future existence to a British alliance, which in effect would be a protectorate. In return for such protection, England would stipulate for a monopoly of their trade—buying their cotton and paying for it in manufactures. The Government of Jeffdom would be a military despotism, resting on slaves for an industrial class. A titled nobility, preceded by restricted suffrage, would be next in order. A Scion of the British royal family would probably be imported to rule over Secessia, and shed luster upon the new aristocracy.

GEN. PHELPS' PROCLAMATION.

We have to thank Gen. Phelps of Ship Island for one thing, though the obligation is a slight one. He has probably closed up the list of Military Proclamations. Doubtless from this time out, we are to have no more of them, and surely we have had a surfeit. If the war was to be fought on paper, if the only "steel to steel" of the fight was steel-pens, enough has been done in such direction, and our Commanders of Expeditions will hereafter be enjoined to fall to work in some other way. This, if nothing else, should prevail upon Government to establish a policy, and that, one and the same for the Potomac, the Department of the West, and for the Gulf. It should not be left for each several leader to establish his own principles of action, and that this never should have been allowed, is painfully evident from the records of the past campaign. What is wanted, and what we should have had from these Generals, would have been something entirely free from the flavor of their personal sympathies. Appreciating that this was a war for the perpetuity of the Government, they should have understood that neither the loyal people nor the rebels cared to know so much of the personal views and private opinions of each commander. It was equally silly for Sherman to send out his sweet scented Pro-Slavery billet doux from Port Royal, and for Phelps to belabor the inhabitants of the "Southwest" with an Anti-Slavery lecture. It was unnecessary for Gen. Halleck to hamper himself and his policy by a betrayal of old pro-slavery principles. Either and all of these three officers would have achieved much more for the country by keeping to the strict line of military duty. The public mind has been confused by contradictory proclamations, the Government has been stultified, while the cause of the rebellion has found in them a liberal fertilizer.

Willing and desirous that an end of this evil should come, we are grateful to Gen. Phelps for having culminated it. Pro-slavery and semi-secession journals at the North would never have confessed the disadvantages and dangers of this course, while the decisions and proclamations tallied with their own sympathies; they see it now in the strong light of the Ship Island harangue, and from all parties at the North will come up the united demand for a *policy*. Hereafter let the war be carried out on war principles. Let Congress pass an act definitely instructing military officers to leave their personal views to their own private circles, and use every means to put an end to the rebellion. Let all the property of rebels be confiscated. Let it be the Government that speaks to the rebels and not any individual commander. Among all the means for ending the rebellion the harangues of Generals will be found the least effective. Let us have no more of them. Give us a policy.

More Nigger Catching.

Gen. Stone, in command at Edwards's Ferry, on the Potomac, has wrought with exceeding diligence at nigger catching, and this constitutes his chief distinction. We can only blame him for one thing, which, with his keen scent after Africans, we see not how he could have overlooked. When his division recrossed the Potomac, on the day following the Ball Bluff affair, two negroes, the slaves of a Leesburg secessionist, came over with our troops. What was Gen. Stone about not to smell out these blacks earlier? It is inexcusable, but he has made amends by sending them over. On Wednesday last, ten Northern soldiers were sent with a flag of truce to take these negroes back. With a misappreciation of General Stone, which we should not expect in rebel quarters, the secesh would not receive the precious mission until Gen. Stone had sent them twice. When are we to be rid of commanders whose highest zeal is expended in nigger catching, and for what else is the cause of the Union indebted to this General Stone, unless it be Ball's Bluff?

The Sword Makers of Richmond.

In the show room of the Ames Manufacturing Company at Chicopee, near Springfield, Mass., hang two remarkable specimens of cavalry sabres, the history of which is thus given. Some two years ago the manufacture of swords was commenced at the Richmond Armory, the initiative step towards rebellion. To this armory at Richmond, the stolen machinery from Harper's Ferry has since been added. A couple of thousand of these pruning hooks were turned out, and then scabbards were wanted for them. But alas! the chivalry were not equal to *that*. They had hammered out the blades into as many different shapes as there were swords, and no two were alike. A scabbard made for one would not interchange with any others! So they shipped them to the Ames Company, with a request to have them fitted to scabbards, or rather (in order to have the symmetry of their shape) to have scabbards fitted to them! A job of this nature would have non-plussed almost any one else, but Yankee ingenuity prevailed over the stupidity of the hot-spurs; the sword were provided with scabbards, and two of them preserved as mementoes of the ingenuity of the age.

Iowa State Warrants and Credit.

The Davenport *Gazette* says that the military obligations of Iowa, and even the pay rolls of the troops, are being discharged with State warrants, forced upon the recipients at par, but which are only worth seventy-five per cent. in the market. In this condition of things it is hard to find people who will trust the State, except from patriotic motives; and the holders of warrants, who are unable to keep them, in hopes that the Legislature will make good the amount, are put to much trouble and loss. The last Legislature voted a war loan of $400,000, which the Governor has found it impossible to negotiate. The *Gazette* cannot understand why this should be the experience of a State, which at the commencement of this war had not three hundred thousand dollars public debt, yet possessed of immense resources, with small taxes—and whose expenses since the war, have been very light, and a portion of these refunded by the General Government.

☞ The nine Indian Chiefs representing the Creeks, Chickasaw and Seminole tribes of the Southwest, of whose recent interview with U. S. Commissioner Dole we give in another column a full and interesting report, have been all through our camps and forts along the Potomac and have seen whole brigades on review. They have also examined the heavy artillery and small firearms, and seem greatly astonished, having been made to believe by the Seceah, who have tried to operate upon their loyalty, that we had no army and no weapons. The chief remarked to McClellan—"Big army; big guns. Why no go fight?"

The Agony of Ireland.

Much surprise and indignation has been excited by the course taken by Sir Robert Peel, Chief Secretary for Ireland, to ignore and conceal the actual suffering of Ireland, a thoroughly British trait, however, sure to be exhibited officially on any similar occasion. The last advices from Ireland confirm all the forebodings and prognostications of her sufferings. The famine is upon her in dread reality. The Dublin *Freeman* of the 14th ult., says, "So far from a portion of the (potato) crop being available for food, there will not be enough for seed." In Skibbereen the suffering is intense.

In Sligo the potato crop is already gone, and some of the best people will have to go to the workhouse. In Limerick, the *Reporter* says three-fourths of the potatoes were lost, and the wheat could not be harvested. In Connaught the weather had already been very severe, and in both food and fuel an utter dearth was early foreboded. The Northern counties are sharing extensively in the general destitution. The "reduction" policy pursued towards Ireland for a dozen years past, has undoubtedly aggravated the present destitution, which might otherwise have been guarded against.

Gen. Hunter's Division.

The command of Gen. Hunter, as chief of the department of Kansas, embraces a total of 16,000 men, including 2,700 regular, (the most of whom are in New Mexico, or doing garrison duty,) 11,850 volunteers, and 1,300 recruits not yet put in the field. There are five field batteries of artillery, numbering twenty-six guns. Of this force 6,000 or 7,000 will be mounted. This force is doubtless ample for defensive, but certainly insufficient for any other movements, especially when the great border to be guarded is considered. Most of the troops will go, if not into permanent winter quarters, into temporary. The Kansas forces will be stationed along the river and border, while it is probable that the First cavalry will be used to operate against the rebel Indians on the Southern frontier. These are said to be threatening the southwestern counties of the State. In that section, at Fort Riley and in Doniphan, there are several companies of Home Guards mustered into service; but what their numbers are is not known.

A Reduced Price.

And thus must be Gen. Price of Missouri, who will want his "*Fifty Thousand Men*" more than ever since the splendid achievement of Gen. Pope. By three brilliant movements, with scarcely a parallel in the history of this war, the rebel cause in Missouri has received a powerful shock. Almost simultaneously Col. Davis takes the camp at Milford, Gen. Pope strikes a blow at Clinton, and the Kansas boys sweep across the river and blot out two secesh towns. The footing up shows 2,300 prisoners, 1000 horses, and a large amount of arms, ammunition, and supplies. It will be something from which Price will not soon recover, and not at all this winter. We have had nothing like it since the gallant Lyon.

Post Office Revenue.

The following is an official statement of revenue and expenditure of the Post Office Department for four years, from 1858 to 1861, inclusive, and estimates for 1862 and 1863, to wit:

Years.	Expenditures.	Revenues.	Deficiencies.
1858	$12,721,636.56	$8,186,793.86	$4,534,842.70
1859	14,964,493.33	7,968,484.07	6,996,009.26
1860	14,874,772.89	9,218,067.40	5,656,705.49
1861	13,606,759.11	9,049,296.40	4,557,462.71
1862	14,955,585.23	10,2[illegible],904.00	4,566,600.63
1863	12,528,000.00	9,383,000.00	3,145,000.00

☞ Potter's Homestead Bill was defeated in the House on the 18th, by a fatal collision with Morrill's Bill donating public lands to the several States and territories for the establishment of colleges for the benefit of agriculture and the mechanic arts. Although not directly antagonistic, the passage of one of these bills would defeat the other, and under existing circumstances both may be regarded as killed. That of Mr. Potter was designed to carry out one of the most prominent features of the Chicago platform. In the bill, as reported, there are some new features. It extends the benefit of the Homestead bill to all who perform military service under the proclamation of the President of the 15th of April last, or any act of Congress during the existing war, and also to all militia volunteers or State troops of any State or Territory performing service in aid of the Federal Government during the same period, and to teamsters and wagon masters employed under competent authority in military service, and gives the same privilege, in lieu of prize money and extra allowances, to all persons performing service in the Navy of the United States during the war or any foreign war occurring within the period. In lieu of bounty lands it gives to three months volunteers of all grades the free homestead and thirty dollars in money, and to six months volunteers one hundred dollars in addition to the homestead. In all cases being held as a prisoner of war to be reckoned as actual service.

☞ At Meadville, Pa., highly successful experiments have lately been made in that place with a fire shell, invented by one of the citizens of that place, the peculiarity of which consists in the introduction of a small quantity of petroleum or native rock oil, the fearful inflammability of which is well known. The explosion of the shell ignites and scatters this oil far and wide, wrapping everything in the vicinity in flames, so fierce that it is almost impossible to extinguish them. Water has no effect upon the fire thus created, and it can only be subdued by some smothering process, which is not easily applicable to the wide spread conflagration produced by an explosion of the oil-charged shell. In the experiments made at Meadville, piles of wood and acres of grass and brush were consumed by the terrible contrivance. It is said that the Government has ordered a trial of this shell to be made by the officers of the Michigan at Erie, and, in case they pronounce a favorable verdict upon it, will order and extensive manufacture of them.

☞ A dispatch to the Philadelphia *Bulletin* says an important decision has just been made by the Secretary of War and the Paymaster-General. The decision is, in effect, that a soldier is entitled to pay from the day he enlists, and that he is not to wait till his company is full or the formal muster of the regiment into Government service.

☞ Encke's Comet is now visible, with the aid of a telescope of moderate power, in the constellation Pegasus. Its average time of revolution round the sun is forty months, or three years and a third, which is the shortest period of any known comet. It will not reach that point in its orbit which is nearest the sun till the sixth of February.

☞ General Phelps, of Ship Island, is, we understand, a native of Vermont, was graduated at West Point, and has served for many years in the army in the Southern States and elsewhere. In the Mexican war as a captain, he distinguished himself by his bravery, and won commendation from General Scott. He has through life been noted for his oddities. In that point his reputation is maintained now.

☞ Gov. Curtin of Pennsylvania, is about to issue a proclamation, calling upon the citizens to form military organizations for State defence. He has had all the State arms collected, which are being repaired at Lancaster at the rate of 1,200 per week. He will shortly visit Washington to confer with the National authorities for the defence of Delaware River and Lake Erie.

☞ The rebel cabal at Richmond are in great alarm because of the demonstrations making in Kentucky to push a strong National column into Tennessee. Jeff. Davis and his associates feel that to be their point of greatest and most immediate danger. They admit, among themselves, that their are 50,000 loyal fighting men in East Tennessee, who will rise and throw off the traitors' yoke the instant that our army penetrates to their locality; and that once accomplished, all the rebel defences in Virginia are turned and rendered useless.

☞ A letter, received at Washington on the 14th, from a mercantile firm in Liverpool, which had made a large shipment of arms, states that "all the arms had been taken from the vessels. Sixty thousand that were to be shipped have been retained. No more will be permitted to be shipped."

INTERVIEW WITH THE CHIEFS AND COMMISSIONER DOLE.

Loyalty of the Creeks, Seminoles and Chickasaws.

[Specially reported for the Chicago Tribune.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17, 1861.

The interest that is felt as to the loyalty of the Indian tribes of the Southwest, gives an importance to the recent formal Conference of the Delegation of leading Chiefs of the Creeks, Seminoles and Chickasaws with the U. S. Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington, and the appended full report will be read with interest. These Chiefs came first to Kansas, from the west of Arkansas, and met Major General Hunter in Council, and are attended here by Agent Cutler, and Mr. Carruth, a friend of Gen. Lane's; also by the son of Commissioner Dole, who was the bearer of dispatches from the Indian Office to Gen. Hunter, as to the matters in the Council.

The names and tribes of the Chiefs are as follows:

CREEKS—Oct-tah-has-has Harjo, 2d head Chief; Micco Hutka, or White Chief, Chief; Thatho Fixico, Chief; Bob Deer; Wm. Gregory, Interpreter.
SEMINOLES—Oct-chun Yohola, Chief; Echo-foloss Harjo, Chief.
CHICKASAWS—Sup-pi-kee, Chief; To-ho-lut-kee, Chief.

These are all powerful looking men, all wearing farmer looking clothes, with the exception of one of the Seminoles, who looks with stoical sublimity out from under a small red blanket wound round his straight hair like a turban. They sat all ranged around the Commissioner's room as still as a Quaker meeting. There was a general rush to get a glimpse and hear the palavar, and when all was still, the interpreter, William Gregory, a Creek half-breed, standing ready to be the medium, the Commissioner rose, and having shaken hands with the ring, made them a neat and graceful speech. I cannot give the exact words, but the main drift was this:

MY FRIENDS:—I am glad to see you. I have heard of your good will to the Government, through Major General Hunter, with whom you have been holding council at Fort Leavenworth. He has given a good account of you, and for this reason, I am the more glad to see you. I propose to introduce you to the President, your Great Father, who will assure you that the Government of the United States will carry out all its treaty stipulations. Your annuities are safe in the Big Chest (pointing to the great safe in the Commissioner's room.) It was only because I could not send them to your country safely, that you have not got them. I will take pleasure in introducing you to the President, who will be glad to see you and hear of your loyalty.

Micco Hutka (White Chief,) having approached slowly and shaken hands with Commissioner Dole, said: "I would like to relate from the start, how things are among our people."

Commissioner—I shall be glad to hear.

Mico Hutka.—When first we got news that the United State had split, we made up our minds not to take sides either way. After that the Southern men came among us and said the United States were gone, the treaties were not good any more, and that our only chance was to join them. We did not know how it was, but waited to learn the truth. We have an old man, one of our Nation, who has been in all the treaties, and he told me (White Chief) to come and see how it was. I came to Kansas and met this man (pointing to Mr. Carruth) at Humboldt, and through him I met General Lane, who was with his army, who told me to try and bring on a larger delegation, and to have Mr. Carruth write some letters for some of our men to come on, and I took his letters and went back. By the time I had got back to my people, I found they had split and parted. Some had gone North and some South. A reward of $500 had been offered for my head, and another reward was out for Mr. Carruth, and no chance to deliver the letters, and I took the letters and our few chiefs and head men now here and came on to Kansas again. Times were so we could not reside in our own country, and we had to look to the North and the treaties for help. Hence we have come on here. There sits the second head chief, (pointing to Oct-tah-has-has Harjo—Panther Killer with the butt of his gun,) who will tell you more about it all.

Oct-tah-has-has Harjo (shaking hands with Commissioner Dole) said:

I have a very sore throat, and not able to speak much. I believe it was the will of Providence that I should meet you to-day. It was bad, very bad times there when I left. There were many there trying to get all our tribes to join Confederacy. They had tried all the Creeks, Chickasaws, Cherokees, Choctaws, Seminoles, Wichitas and others. We were told the North were coming to take our property and would keep no more any treaty with us, and were coming there with their army to take us and all our property. *All we could do was to cross our hands and look up.* Our Old Man, the Chief, said, not so; treaties could not be broke at all. The Southern men tried to make us believe there were no more any treaties existing, and hence we have come on. *A boy when he gets into any difficulty, goes to his father, and we have come on here in our difficulty, to our Great Father.* Now we are satisfied he was right, and that the South is wrong, and they are on the right side in still holding on to the United States. One man, Albert Pike, gave out word that if any town or tribe did not join the South, they were enemies. We had to retreat. Times got worse and worse, and harder and harder, and they sent White Chief north, and they then persecuted us more and more. We have no opportunity to defend ourselves, although the Union men among us are the more numerous. The Texans mere on one side of us, and other Southern men on another, and we had to back out. We had no means of helping ourselves. All odds were against us. Many of our men said we must fight, but others said wait till assistance comes from afar. We have, they said, claims to treaties of the United States, and may expect assistance, and to-day I have come to tell you how we have suffered. I I could tell you more, but this is about the whole sum, and that is all I have to say now.

Commissioner.—I am glad to hear this history of these things from your Chief, about the Red Children of your Great Father, who are in the South. I expected just such a story. I want now again to assure these Chiefs that the Government is able and willing to carry out all treaty stipulations. The President, your Great Father, will be charitable for your transgressions. You have some excuse, because some of the agents that have been formerly sent among you, have turned against you, and have taught you a lie. Early in the season, when the grass had just come forth, your Great Father sent agents to pay you your annuities, and fulfil the stipulations of the treaties. They were met on the borders by armed men, and driven back. They published that you too were bad men. Your Great Father did not know what to believe, and I am glad you are here to explain all these things to him.

You have seen in your travels the power of the North. This power will all be used if necessary to defend your loyal people, and to put down this armed rebellion against you and the Government. It may take time, but in time it will be done by the President. It may become necessary to reorganize the tribes in the South. If the enemies of the Government are so powerful that the disloyal part of your people can drive out the loyal, it may be necessary to cut them off, and reorganize your tribal relations. I trust this will not be so, but that when you return, the disaffected part of your tribes will come again to the folds of the Government. I understand you have the right, under treaty, to demand the protection of the Government. ["Ugh," said the 2d Head Chief.] It shall be given you. It is my duty and my pleasure to introduce you to the President, who will, I doubt not, assure you that the necessary forces shall be furnish you. ["Ugh!"]

I wish to tender my thanks to White Chief and all the other chiefs and head men here present, and I wish you to carry back to your people what I have said, and the assurances and paternal regards of the Government. I now bid you good-bye (shaking hands with all the chiefs).

Here followed "introductions all 'round," Mr. Mix, the Chief Clerk, playfully introducing the Commissioner as their Great Father, and Mrs. Dole as their Great Mother. After some little conversation, the Commissioner in a familiar way asked the Chief some questions.

Commissioner.—I want to inquire in relation to the alliances formed by any of your people with the Confederates, and also as to John Ross, of whom the Government entertains a high opinion.

White Chief.—I don't know all the particulars. I don't know which of the tribes took up first with the offers of the Southern white men, but they were taken up by some of each of the five tribes, and soon carried through our country. The whites came in there, and assisted by a few of the half breeds went through the Nation, but *nary* whole Nation has gone with the Confederates.

Commissioner.—What proportion of your people will stand by the United States?

White Chief.—The Creeks have about 700 secesh, but the Union has 3,000 warriors.

Commissioner.—Can you assure us, if we send our agents there, 3,000 of your men will stand by them?

White Chief.—Yes. They will stand by them. Before, they had not ammunition and guns, and could not have stood out more than two days; but now they are ready to rise at any time the Northern army comes.

Commissioner.—How is it with the Cherokees?

White Chief.—Cherokees same as Creeks. John Ross same as they. Ross and his men are very large now, and ready to rise when Union force gets there.

Commissioner.—How with the Seminoles?

White Chief.—They are not very large tribe. About 70 gone into secesh army, very earnest. The whole tribe has not over 400 men, and about 300 of them are for the United States. No census has been taken lately.

Commissioner.—How many of the Five Tribes are organized into the secession army?

White Chief.—I did not have any opportunity to get the exact number, but I think 2,300, all told.

Commissioner.—Under what leaders of their own people are they?

White Chief.—I don't know exactly. The Creek officers are D. N. McIndoo, Colonel; and on his staff are Jacob Devreaw, Joseph Perryman, Samuel Che-ko-ty-do, Pleasant Porter, and others.

Commissioner.—Where is their camp?

White Chief.—They are inside of the Indian line, and marching on us. There is a place called Post Oak Settlement, where now many of them feed and have their quarters.

Commissioner.—I want to hear from the Chickasaws, whether they say the same things that the Creeks do.

Sup-pi-kee (Chickasaw Chief).—All is true and correct that has been said.

Commissioner.—The Chickasaws are farthest south, and more naturally suspected. I am pleased to see here two of their Chiefs (Sup-pi-kee and To-ho-lut-kee), and to hear that their men are so many of them loyal.

White Chief.—We had all our councils together and agreed. The Union Chickasaws have 1,240 men. The secesh ranks have 100 Chickasaw men. The Seminole warriors are stationed near Fort Arbuckle, thirty miles from the agency. The Choctaws are all secesh.

Commissioner.—Agent Cutler and Mr. Carruth will see that you are furnished with all necessary things for your comfort while you are here, and through your interpreter will let you know when you can see the President.

Here the Indians all left the room, going out in single file, and after taking a lunch at the table of the old man in the hall, took carriages for the President's, accompanied by the Secretary of the Interior, the Commissioner, Chief Clerk, a son of the Secretary, and a son of the Commissioner. J. W. R.

The Ship Island Expedition—General Phelps's Proclamation.

The correspondent of the N. Y. *Times* who accompanied the expedition to Ship Island, gives the following account of the process of incubation of Gen. Phelps's ridiculous proclamation referred to in our last issue:

During the latter part of the trip to Ship Island, Gen. Phelps, it was observed, spent more than the usual time in his room. He did not come so promptly as the rest of the officers to the table, and when he did appear, seemed more occupied with his own thoughts than with the current of conversation. The cause of his temporary reticence was explained on the day following our arrival at Ship Island, when the General caused to be published an address, or proclamation, to the loyal citizens of the Southwest. Having with him no member of his immediate staff, he had evidently consulted chiefly his own judgment in putting forth the address. After its completion Gen. Phelps explained that he regarded the occasion as a peculiarly fitting one for setting forth in a frank and, at the same time, a tolerant spirit, the sentiments which would govern his conduct in prosecuting war against rebellion in the Southwest. Having already reached our destination, and the active duties of providing for the landing of the troops devolving upon him, Gen. Phelps intrusted his proclamation to your correspondent, with the request that he would copy and circulate it as widely as possible. The document was copied in a plain hand, and on the evening of our arrival in Ship Island Roads, it was read aloud in the presence of the passengers and officers, who were convened in the steamer's saloon. On the following morning, other copies were made, one of which was read to the officers on board the United States steamer Massachusetts, in the hearing of several secession prisoners, who had been taken on board the rebel steamers Henry Lewis, Anna, and other prizes in port. A copy was also left on board, for Commander Smith.

HEADQUARTERS MIDDLESEX BRIGADE,
SHIP ISLAND, MISSISSIPPI, Dec. 4, 1861.

To the loyal citizens of the Southwest:

Without any desire of my own, but contrary to my private inclinations, I again find myself among you as a military officer of the Government. A proper respect for my fellow countrymen renders it not out of place that I should make known to you the motives and principles by which my command will be governed.

We believe that every State that has been admitted as a Slave State into the Union, since the adoption of the Constitution, has been so admitted in direct violation of that Constitution.

We believe that the Slave States which existed, as such, at the adoption of our Constitution, are, by becoming parties to that compact, under the highest obligations of honor and morality to abolish slavery.

It is our conviction that monopolies are as destructive as competition is conservative of the principles and vitalities of republican government; that slave labor is a monopoly which excludes free labor and competition; that slaves are kept in comparative idleness and ease in a fertile half of our arable national territory, while free white laborers, constantly augmenting in numbers from Europe, are confined to the other half, and are often distressed by want; that the free labor of the North has more need of expansion into the Southern States, from which it is virtually excluded, than slavery had into Texas in 1846; that free labor is essential to free institutions; that these institutions are naturally better adapted and more congenial to the Anglo-Saxon race than are the despotic tendencies of slavery; and, finally, that the dominant political principle of this North American continent, so long as the Caucasian race continues to flow in upon us from Europe, must needs be that of free institutions and free government. Any obstructions to the progress of that form of government in the United States must inevitably be attended with discord and war.

Slavery, from the condition of a universally recognized social and moral evil, has become at length a political institution, demanding political recognition. It demands rights to the exclusion and annihilation of those rights which are insured to us by the Constitution; and we must choose between them, which we will have, for we cannot have both. The Constitution was made for Freemen—not for Slaves. Slavery, as a social evil, might for a time be tolerated and endured; but as a political institution it becomes imperious and exacting, controlling, like a dread necessity, all whom circumstances have compelled to live under its sway, hampering their action and thus imperiling our national progress. As a political institution it could exist as a co-ordinate part only of two forms of government, viz.: the despotic and the free; and it could exist under a free government only where public sentiment, in the most unrestricted exercise of a robust freedom, leading to extravagance and licentiousness, had swayed the thoughts and habits of the people beyond the bounds and limits of their own moderate constitutional provisions. It could exist under a free government only where the people in a period of unreasoning extravagance had permitted popular clamor to overcome popular reason, and had attempted the impossibility of setting up, permanently, as a political institution, a social evil which is opposed to moral law.

By reverting to the history of the past, we find that one of the most destructive wars on record, that of the French Revolution, was originated by the attempt to give political character to an institution which was not susceptible of political character. The Church, by being endowed with political power, with its convents, its schools, its immense landed wealth, its associations, secret and open, became the ruling power of the State, and thus occasioned a war of more strife and bloodshed, probably, than any other war which has desolated the earth.

Slavery is still less susceptible of political character than was the Church. It is as fit at this moment for the lumber-room of the past as was in 1793 the monastery, the landed wealth, the exclusive privileges, etc., of the Catholic Church in France. It behooves us to consider, as a self-governing people, bred and reared, and practiced in the habits of self-government, whether we cannot, whether we *ought* not, to revolutionize slavery out of existence, without the necessity of a conflict of arms like that of the French Revolution.

Indeed, we feel assured that the moment slavery is abolished, from that moment our Southern brethren, every ten of whom have probably seven relatives in the North, would begin to emerge from a hateful delirium. From that moment, relieved from imaginary terrors, their days become happy, and their nights peaceable and free from alarm; the aggregate amount of labor, under the new stimulus of fair competition, becomes greater day by day; property rises in value; invigorating influences succeed to stagnation, degeneracy and decay; and union, harmony and peace, to which we have so long been strangers, become restored; and bind us again in the bonds of friendship and amity, as when we first began our national career, under our glorious Government of 1789.

Why do the leaders of the rebellion seek to change the form of our ancient Government? Is it because the growth of the African element has come at length to render a change necessary? Will you permit the free Government under which you have thus far lived, and which is so well suited for the development of true manhood, to be altered to a narrow and belittling despotism, in order to adapt it to the necessities of ignorant slaves, and the requirements of their proud and aristocratic owners? Will the laboring men of the South bend their necks to the same yoke that is suited to the slaves? We think not. We may safely answer that the time has not yet arrived when our Southern brethren, for the mere sake of keeping Africans in slavery, will abandon their long cherished free institutions, and enslave themselves.

It is the conviction of my command, as a part of the national forces of the United States, that labor—manual labor—is inherently noble; that it cannot be systematically degraded by any nation without ruining its peace, happiness and power; that free labor is the granite basis on which free institutions must rest; that it is the right, the capital, the inheritance, the hope of the poor man everywhere; that it is especially the right of five millions of our fellow-countrymen in the slave States as well as of the four millions of Africans there, and all our efforts, therefore, however small or great, whether directed against the interference of governments from abroad, or against rebellious combinations at home, shall be for free labor; our motto and our standard shall be, here and everywhere, and on all occasions, FREE LABOR AND WORKINGMEN'S RIGHTS. It is on this basis, and this basis alone, that our munificent Government—the asylum of the nations—can be perpetuated and preserved.

J. W. PHELPS,
Brig.-Gen. of Volunteers, Commanding.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS.

Report of the Congressional Investigating Committee.

How Morgan, Sec. Welles's Brother-in-law, Feathered his Nest.

WASHINGTON, December 18, 1861.

The committee of the House to inquire into Government Contracts has completed its report. The committee, it will be remembered, has the right to report "from time to time;" and this, its first report, only covers evidence taken outside of Washington. In a few days the committee will proceed to inquire into certain Pennsylvania contracts made with the War Department which have excited comment.

The report commences by stating that the committee initiated its labor on the 27th of August last—since which time they have traveled to distant parts of the country, thereby saving to the Treasury the sum of $36,000 in witnesses' fees. Sittings have been held in Washington, New York, Boston, New Bedford, St. Louis, Cairo, Chicago and Harrisburg. They have traveled over six thousand miles, and examined two hundred and sixty-five witnesses. The sum appropriated by Congress to cover the expenses of the committee during the recess was $10,000. Of this sum they have spent less than half; and in the course of their examinations a dishonest contractor handed to the committee $6,166.48, which was at once paid into the Treasury of the United States.

PURCHASES OF VESSELS.

The committee next consider the general subject of purchasing vessels, and open the subject with the following language:

"The exigencies of the public service have required the expenditure of a large sum of money in the purchase and fitting out of vessels for the expeditions against the Southern coast, and for the other new duties imposed by the rebellion. More than seventy vessels of different capacity and value, at a first cost of nearly $3,000,000, before fitting and furnishing them, respectively, for the peculiar service for which each was designed, were purchased by the Government in the single port of New York, in the short space of six or seven weeks.

"The dictates of a prudence and sagacity such as characterize the most ordinary business transactions would have required the employment in this most responsible duty of the best talent and experience of the navy—of men who, by their professional experience, are presumed to know what service is required of such vessel, and what particular ones in a crowded market would meet the exigency. The committee regret to find that these plain rules, governing all successful business transactions, have been disregarded, and that the public service has suffered greatly thereby."

The first purchase of vessels alluded to was in May last, by W. H. Starbuck, a New York broker, who proceeded to New Bedford, where he bought the ship Roman for $4,000, and the vessel William Badger for $2,500. Starbuck then took in a partner in the transaction, who made an affidavit that *he* sold the vessels to Starbuck, and for the following sums: the Roman for $7,400, and the William Badger for $7,150. The Government actually paid $14,500 for the vessels, besides commission fees; but Starbuck, upon being threatened by the United States District Attorney in New York, refunded $6,166.

"But it is to the arrangement between the Secretary of the Navy and his brother-in-law, Mr. Morgan, and to the compensation of this agent for the services thus rendered, that the Committee desire especially to call attention in this connection, as of a character, whether it be in the stipulated amount received, or in the mode of payment, alike indefensible and reprehensible. That arrangement is a system of commissions, usually two and a half per cent. of the purchase money paid for each vessel—and one under which Mr. Morgan received, as compensations, during the seven weeks previous to the 6th day of September, when this testimony was taken, the enormous sum of $51,585, as admitted by him before the Committee. When this testimony was taken, information of its extraordinary character was communicated to the Department, in the hope that an abuse so glaring, when pointed out, might be corrected.

"Yet, notwithstanding the department became thus possessed of the information that its own agent was, by this system of commissions, *amassing a private fortune*, the committee have been surprised to learn, from a recent communication from the Navy Department, furnishing them with the number and prices of vessels purchased by Mr. Morgan for the Government since the 6th day of September, that those purchased amount in the aggregate to the sum of $1,736,092. If he has received the *same rate of compensation since as before that date*, there must be added to the sum of $51,584, paid him before that date, the further compensation of $43,424, for services rendered since, making in all the sum of $95,008 *paid to a single individual* for his services as agent of the government since the 15th day of July, *a period of four and one half months*.

"Mr. Morgan insisted, in his testimony, and seemed to believe that this large compensation was received by him, not from the Government, but from those who sold their ships to the Government, and was, therefore, justifiable. But the committee can admit neither the premises of Mr. Morgan nor the conclusion he draws from them. In point of fact this large compensation was paid, in the end, out of the Treasury of the United States; but if it had been paid by those who dealt with the Government, it would have been equally indefensible. No department of this Government has a right to place its agents in a position, or clothe them with a power, under pretence of compensation for services rendered the Government itself, to take from the pockets of patriotic citizens coming forward with their means to the support of the Government in the day of its trial, such a sum of money as is here found to have been diverted into the pocket of Mr. Morgan.

"No citizen can justify any such attempt to convert the public necessities into an occasion for making private fortunes. If it be true that this agent of the Government is paid by those who deal with it, the committee are at a loss to understand upon what principle prevailing in business or morals the agent of one party is thus put in pay of the other party. It is worse than absurdity. It is directly demoralizing and infamous to the public service.

"But the pretence that this large amount of money in the form of compensation for services rendered the Government, twice as great for two months as the President's salary for a year, and as much for five months as the entire salary for a Presidential term, was taken out of those who dealt with the Government, and not out of the party for whom the services were rendered, so persistently urged in justification, has no foundation in fact.

"It is but so much added to the cost of the ships purchased, and has been paid out of the Treasury of the United States. It has been distributed in the form of a small commission, over millions of dollars, and in some instances was scarcely perceptible; but its presence was no less real and its aggregation no less enormous. In form of words, as stated by Mr. Morgan in his testimony, the arrangement was this: He was employed by the Secretary of the Navy to perform this service, with the express stipulation that he was to receive no fixed salary to be paid him by the Government for the services he was to render it, but he was to charge a commission of two and a half per cent. on all his purchases—the usual New York brokerage.

"He was beforehand to inform, and did inform every one with whom he dealt, of this arrangement, and that his commission must be deducted from the amount paid for the ship, or, as Mr. Morgan preferred to state it, must be paid by them, after the Government had paid for the ship. In this way every one was notified, before he fixed his price, that out of that price was to be deducted a given sum to pay the agent of the buyer, that is—to the sum he was actually to receive for his ship he must add the sum he must pay to the agent of the purchaser for buying it. It follows, of necessity, that in bringing his mind to the lowest sum he is willing to accept as an equivalent for his ship, he must add that which he is to pay back to the agent of the buyer, else he does not get that equivalent. No amount of subtle reasoning, by which it is attempted to sustain this anomalous arrangement, can do away with this practical result. If testimony were needed on this point, it may be found in that given before the committee by many of those with whom Mr. Morgan dealt, though with some of them, in their anxiety to make sale of their vessels, a small commission seemed of little or no account.

"The compensation paid to Mr. Morgan for the purchase of a single vessel, a negotiation of a few hours or days at most, sometimes amounted to more than $5,000. There was no seller, when asked the question, who failed to say that he would as soon have sold his ship to the Government for $5,000 less, without commission, as to have sold it for the price agreed upon, and then paid the sum to Mr. Morgan.

"Mr. Morgan had no responsibility for the disbursement of a single dollar on account of these purchases, for the parties and their papers were all referred to the department at Washington for examination, ratification and payment the moment the price had been fixed. He executed no bond, and could claim compensation for no unusual responsibility or liability. It is no answer, that, notwithstanding this exorbitant compensation, amounting in itself to a fortune, was paid him, nevertheless his skill and sagacity have saved the Government large sums in buying at very low prices. The department would have been entitled to the full benefit of all that skill and sagacity had he been employed, like other government officers, at a fair fixed salary; such, as the testimony shows would have commanded the best talent of the city of New York. A compensation at the rate of $10,000 a year was not necessary to secure fidelity.

"Besides, if the method of payment by commissions had any effect upon the agent, it is apparent that the higher the price paid for the ships the greater the compensation. That system of payment to an agent, which makes his interest identical with that of the seller and antagonistic with that of the Government itself, whose agent he is, and which says in effect to him, 'pay $10,000 more than a ship is worth, and $250 shall be the reward of your infidelity,' has no foundation either in common sense or common prudence. It is not believed that Mr. Morgan ever yielded to this temptation, to which the vicious principle regulating his compensation exposed him.

"It is this principle, and the enormous private fortune it was adapted to secure out of a great public necessity, which the committee feel called upon to condemn in the strongest terms; an arrangement entered into between the Secretary of the Navy and Mr. Morgan, by which the *enormous sum of more than $90,000* has been, by indirection, taken from the Treasury of the United States, and given as compensation to *a single individual* for services which however faithfully rendered, could have been secured for an amount insignificant in comparison with the sum actually taken.

"The committee do not find in this transaction the less to censure in the fact that this arrangement between the *Secretary of the Navy and Mr. Morgan was one between brothers-in-law, a family arrangement which, in the opinion of the committee, reflects great discredit upon the public service.*"

MORE FRAUDS AND RASCALITIES DISCOVERED.

The Report of the Congressional Investigating Committee discloses a startling amount of corruption and exposes a multitude of swindlers to the light of day.

In the matter of purchasing vessels an instance may be cited. The Stars and Stripes cost the owners $36,000, and after using her one year, George D. Morgan, brother-in-law of Secretary Welles, bought her for $35,000 and turned her over to the Government. Mr. Morgan testified that Secretary Welles employed him with the understanding that he was to have two and a half per cent from the seller for all ships he purchased. The Committee show that thus far he has made over one hundred thousand dollars.

This is considered a fair profit for a grocery dealer, but as he is brother-in-law of the Secretary of the Navy, of course it is all right. This important and startling fact will account for the course pursued by the Secretary of the Navy in refusing to purchase many valuable vessels when offered, unless the purchase was made through a particular channel. It is shown by the committee that this Mr. Morgan was connected with Thurlow Weed in supplying the Cataline, and the pure minded Alexander Cummings, of the religious *World* of New York, and O. B. Matteson, who was expelled from the House of Representatives for corruption.

In regard to the purchase of the Cataline, there are some significant facts in the testimony that are not alluded to in the report. It appears that the original cost, $18,000, was paid in four notes of $4,500 each, given by four parties—Thurlow Weed, G. Davidson, O. B. Matteson and John E. Develin. Each one of the notes was signed by one of these four, and endorsed by the others.

In the item of purchasing army supplies, it is shown that authority was given to Governor Morgan and Alex. Cummings to disburse two millions of dollars. No vouchers were required or given. Gov. Morgan transferred his authority to Geo. D. Morgan, Secretary Welles's special favorite, who, with Cummings, made all the disbursements. Weed & Company appear to have controlled the employees of these agents, and to a certain extent dictated the purchases.

Corning & Company, *hardware men*, of Albany, were selected to furnish *groceries*, and among the purchases made by Cummings, were linen pantaloons and straw hats, which are not recognized as army clothing, and were probably never used.

It is shown in this testimony that an effort was made by the Secretary of War to confer upon Cummings the control of the Subsistence Department in New York, but it failed, on account of Major Eaton's declining his services or assistance.

The improvidence and reckless extravagance of Gen. Fremont is shown in glaring colors. The simple item of buying condemned Austrian muskets will suffice for an example. Twenty-five thousand of them were purchased in one lot; the committee say it is probable that the arm had been rejected from the Austrian service, and purchased on speculation and sent to this country in view of the extraordinary demand for arms. The arm, in the condition in which it was purchased, will certainly never be used by our army, and when altered as proposed, its inferiority to the arms which are rapidly accumulating, together with the almost universal prejudice of our soldiers to altered arms, will almost certainly exclude it from the army. The amount claimed for the arms, including the special ammunition, is about $166,000. The committee are of the opinion that the arm will never be of any service to the Government, and will never be used except in some case of unforeseen and extraordinary emergency.

The committee found a large number of these arms at Cairo, and, notwithstanding the urgent necessity of arms at that point, whole regiments, even on the eve of the battle of Belmont, were almost destitute of arms. These arms were left in the boxes in which they were shipped from the Arsenal at St. Louis.

Another transaction in the purchase of arms, to which the attention of the committee has been directed, is the purchase of five thousand of Hall's carbines by Gen. Fremont, through Simon Stevens, of Pennsylvania. This transaction is in some respects of the same character with the purchase of the Austrian muskets, but much more remarkable in illustrating the improvidence of gentlemen prominently connected with the public service, the corrupt system of brokerage by which the Treasury has been plundered, and the prostitution of public confidence to purposes of individual aggrandizement.

In the month of June last, Arthur M. Eastman, of Manchester N. H., purchased of the Ordnance Bureau five thousand four hundred Hall's carbines, at three dollars fifty cents each, and, after a slight alteration of the arms at a cost of from seventy-five cents to one dollar and twenty-five cents on each arm, sold five thousand of them to Simon Stevens for twelve dollars and fifty cents each, who immediately sold the entire lot to General Fremont for twenty-two dollars each, General Fremont probably laboring under some misapprehension as to the nature of the purchase of the arms.

The committee propose to present the transaction somewhat in detail. The sale of these arms by the War Department to Mr. Eastman, at a time when arms were in such extraordinary demand, is remarkable. Our Government was purchasing at high prices arms rejected from the service of different European nations. If a General commanding a division of the army was at all excusable for purchasing twenty-five thousand muskets rejected from the Austrian service, at six dollars and fifty cents each, on the ground "of a pressing necessity," it is impossible to justify the sale of the Hall carbines, if they were of any value whatever, or capable of being made of any value by alteration.

These arms seem to have been sold privately, and without inviting any competition, and sold, too, for an almost nominal price. The sale was made by order of the Secretary of War on recommendation of the Ordnance Bureau. No government that has ever existed can sustain itself with such improvidence in the management of its affairs. One agent of the government sells these arms at three dollars and fifty cents each in the midst of a pressing demand for arms, and a few weeks afterwards, and without any increase in that demand, the same arms, slightly altered, are resold to the Government through another agent, for twenty-two dollars each, the Government losing in so small a transaction, if permitted to be consummated, over ninety thousand dollars, or, inasmuch as all the Hall carbines owned by the Government were sold to Eastman, and of course embraced the seven hundred and ninety bought by Mr. Alex. Cummings, as the agent of the War Department, for fifteen dollars each, the case as to these would stand thus: They are condemned and sold by the Government at a merely nominal price; afterwards, in April last, an agent of the War Department purchases them for the Government at fifteen dollars each, and in June they are sold to Eastman by the War Department for three dollars and fifty cents each, and in August they are purchased by General Fremont for the Government at twenty-two dollars each.

It is impossible in this brief abstract to notice the large number of contracts which the committee investigated, and upon which they have pronounced their condemnation. The report itself occupies one hundred and thirty-six pages, and the evidence makes a large volume. Gen. Fremont is censured, not for dishonesty, but for incompetency. Of the "fortifications of St. Louis" the report says:

"The circumstances surrounding this work are of the most extraordinary character, and are marked by extravagance, recklessness, insubordination and fraud."

Again, say the committee:

"The dealings of the Quartermaster's Department at St. Louis, while in charge of Major McKinstry, with the firm of Child, Pratt & Fox were very extensive, amounting to more than $800,000 since the present difficulties broke out. This business was not confined to the particular kind of business in which this firm was engaged, who were hardware merchants, but extended to every variety of article and thing which the Department had occasion to buy." * * * * "To secure to this firm the monopoly, by which immense private fortunes were taken from the Treasury, all provisions of law and army regulations requiring advertisement for proposals and the contracting with the lowest bidder to furnish these articles, were totally disregarded, and the most unblushing system of favoritism and exclusiveness established that ever disgraced the service." * * * * "Every branch of industry whose products were in any way necessary to the Department of the West was made to pay tribute to the firm of Child, Pratt & Fox. The profits made by this firm out of the United States by enjoying this monopoly were enormous. Gen. [illegible], its book-keeper, admitted in his testimony that it would reach 35 per cent. which, upon a trade of $800,000, secures the princely fortune of $280,000—a tax upon the Treasury of the United States which nothing but the most controlling reasons of military necessity would ever justify.

GEN. POPE'S DIVISION.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

ST. LOUIS, December 20, 1861.

The following is Gen. Halleck's despatch to Gen. McClellan:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI,
ST. LOUIS, December 20, 1861.

Major General Geo. B. McClellan, Washington:

A part of General Pope's forces, under Col. Jeff. C. Davis and Major Marshall surprised another camp of the enemy on the afternoon of the 18th inst., at Milford, a little north of Warrensburg. A brisk skirmish ensued, when the enemy, finding himself surrounded, surrendered at discretion. We took some 1,300 prisoners, including three colonels and seventeen captains; 1,000 stand of arms; 1,000 horses; 65 wagons, and a large quantity of tents, baggage, and supplies. Our loss was two killed and eight wounded. The enemy's loss is not yet known.

Information was received last night from Glasgow that our troops at that place had taken about two tons of powder in kegs, buried on Jackson's farm. This effectually cuts off their supply of ammunition.

[Signed.] H. W. HALLECK,
Major General Commanding Dep't.

[Associated Press Dispatch.]

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 20.—Further information has been received from the West this morning, to the effect that in addition to the expedition under Gen. Pope against the enemy at or near Clinton, another part of his forces under Col. Jeff. C. Davis and Major Marshall surprised another camp of the rebels on the afternoon of the 18th inst., near Milford, a little north of Warrensburg. A brisk skirmish ensued, when the rebels, finding themselves surrounded, surrendered. Col. Davis took 1,300 prisoners.

Major Hubbard captured 60 rebels a day or two since in Johnson county.

The troops in Kansas have been stirring during the past week, and good news is expected from them daily.

SEDALIA, Dec. 20.—Col. Palmer's brigade arrived here last night, and Gen. Pope is expected to-day. All information from the west and north is to the effect that no efforts have been spared to send Price an ample supply of clothing for the winter. All or nearly all of this has fallen or will fall into our hands. Nearly 200 heavily laden wagons are already in our possession, together with a large quantity of ammunition, arms, a thousand horses, tents and camp equipage, &c., and between 1800 and 2000 recruits have been taken prisoners.

Maj. Hubbard, of the 1st Missouri Cavalry, has captured over 60 rebel recruits within the past few days, and killed several others, taking a considerable number of tents, several wagons, a quantity of baggage and arms, and burned a mill which had been supplying the rebels for some time past.

Altogether the rebellion has received a terrible shock in this section of the country within the present week. It is thought by many that Price will cross the Osage to assist his Generals, Stein and Slack, who are now in the river counties with 4,000 or 5,000 men to escort recruits and supplies to their main camp at Osceola. If he does he will be compelled to stand a general engagement, in which event there is no question whatever but that he will be badly defeated, and his army entirely scattered.

SEDALIA, Mo., Dec. 20.—Early yesterday morning our scouts brought us information that the large rebel train and reinforcements which we had marched south to intercept, had divided, and the larger portion were marching south toward Waverly, intending to camp at night near Milford. Gen. Pope brought the main body of his army in position a few miles south of Waverly; sent a scouting force under Col. Jeff. C. Davis through a few miles south of Warrensburg and Knob Knoster, to come on the left and rear of the enemy, at the same time ordering Merrill's cavalry to march from Warrensburg and come from the right. Col. Davis pushed rapidly forward and came up to the enemy in the afternoon, and drove in his pickets, carried a strongly defended bridge by a vigorous assault, and drove the enemy into the timber, who finding himself surrounded, he surrendered. Thirteen hundred men, including two Colonels, one Lieutenant Colonel, one Major, and 17 Captains, were taken prisoners, and 60 wagons heavily laden with supplies and clothing, and a large number of horses and mules fell into our hands. Our loss was 2 killed and 14 wounded. That of the enemy is considerably greater. This is the best planned and executed action of the war, and reflects great credit on the General commanding, and the officers and men who so faithfully and promptly carried out his plans.

Papinsville and Butler, Mo., Burned by Kansas Troops.

LEAVENWORTH, Dec. 20.—The *Conservative* of this city has advices from Mound City, 15th, stating that a portion of the 3d Regiment, under the command of Major Williams, made a dash into Missouri on the 17th inst., and burned the villages of Papinsville and Butler, (the latter the county seat of Bates county,) and returned with a large number of refugees, stock, &c. They had two men killed at Butler. These towns have for a long time been the resort of guerilla bands of rebels. Price was at Osceola at the time, and it was said that he designed to attack Sedalia.

Two companies of the 4th U. S. Cavalry arrived at Fort Leavenworth on the 18th, 31 days from Fort Wise.

ARMY CONTRACTS IN ST. LOUIS.

All about Beef.

Editors Chicago Tribune:

Much has been said in the journals of the country about speculation and extravagance in the army; but in most cases the items selected for *expose* and comment have been of so trifling a character, that it has been amusing to us in the West that the public benefactors and argus-eyed watchers of the press have seemed satisfied to chase the motes in the bad atmosphere created by the corrupt men who follow in the wake of the army, while wholesale speculators and grand plunderers, who make fortunes in a single month, are serenely let alone, to laugh and grow rich at the swindles which they dignify by making ponderous. Let me illustrate:

On the fifth day of October, 1861, a contract was entered into in the city of St. Louis, "between E. J. Haines, Commissary of Subsistence in the service of the United States, of the one part, and Albert Pearce, of the county of St. Louis, of the other part," which provides as follows: "That the said Albert Pearce, aforesaid, shall receive, for the beef delivered by virtue of this contract, at the following rates, to wit: For each hundred pounds, live or gross weight, the sum of $3.50, (three dollars and fifty cents.)"

It will thus be seen that by the terms of this interesting contract, signed, sealed and delivered at St. Louis as aforesaid, that the parties of the second part receive from our honest Uncle Sam, through the hands of his agent at St. Louis aforesaid, three dollars and fifty cents for every one hundred pounds of beef, live or gross weight, furnished by them to the army in this department. This is equal to seven dollars per hundred for butchered beef, the loss being on the class of cattle used for the army in Missouri at least one half. This, at the first glance, will, I think, strike most men as being a little extravagant in a country celebrated for its cheap beef, and savoring somewhat of a big swindle.

First impressions, Messrs. Editors, are oftentimes correct, and now I propose to show, and will defy successful contradiction, that this same contract has given to the parties participating therein a profit of $2,970 per day, or from the date of the same until now, being 54 days, $160,380. In addition to this, knowing ones say that the value of the fifth quarter of beef and the large profits on cattle that *foolishly wander into the drove* as it is passing through the country, adds another very important item to the grand total of profit aforesaid.

In another revolution, when the doctrines we are now periling our lives and fortunes to sustain were first promulgated and imperiled, men were not wanting who followed our bleeding army and raised the cry of "pay us for our beef." The names of these men have passed into history and become infamous. For God's sake, Messrs. Editors, see to it that this disgrace upon our sacred cause that I have above alluded to may no longer go unexposed.

ONE WHO IS IN THE ARMY AND KNOWS WHEREOF HE SPEAKS.

Gen. Scott in Paris.

[Paris Correspondence N. Y. Times, Nov. 29th.]

Gen. Scott, who arrived here on Monday last, gave a reception yesterday at his hotel, for the purpose of giving his countrymen in Paris an opportunity for an introduction. At 2 o'clock, about fifty ladies and gentlemen being present, the U. S. Minister addressed a few words of welcome to the old veteran. He recalled the brilliant military exploits of his life, and closed by saying that its crowning act was his remaining faithful among so many faithless to the flag of the country. The General replied that he was glad to see his countrymen; that he hoped the reunion of his distracted country would soon be effected, and that if it were not by that time—in the course of five or six months—if his health permitted—he intended to return to the United States, and lend what aid he could to the good cause.

The persons present were then individually presented, the General rising and shaking hands with each one as the name was given, and during the reception, which lasted from 3 to 4 o'clock, about two hundred persons were presented. Mrs. Scott, the venerable wife of the General, who, until his arrival here, had not seen him in five or six years, assisted at the reception. It is probably known that General Scott and his wife, on account of mutually acknowledged incompatibility of temper, have not lived together in the marital relation for fifteen years and more. Mrs. Scott has always, however, manifested a great degree of interest in all her husband's movements, and they have always kept up an occasional correspondence. Upon his arrival here, Mrs. Scott hastened to meet the General, and will, I learn, accompany him to Italy, whither he will go to spend the winter, in the course of a week or two. He thinks the voyage has very much improved his health; says his vertigo is all gone, although he is still troubled with the weakness in the back and legs.

Grist of St. Louis Rebels.

[From the Missouri Democrat, 20th.]

The special assessment for "charity" is, we understand, completed, and some sixty gentlemen are enrolled as involuntary contributors to the refugees relief fund. Those who, aware of their liabilities, wish to understand the mode of collection, are referred to General Order No. 24 for particulars. Should the number of refugees continue, their condition may require another and larger levy. The sum of $10,000, upon a basis so large as the property subject to special contributions, is of course a mere bagatelle, but the principle thus effectuated may have further application according to the exigencies hereafter.

The Tribune.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1861.

THREE EDITIONS A DAY.

On and after to-day, in accordance with arrangements we have perfected, we shall issue the TRIBUNE at such hours as will the most certainly supply our readers throughout the Northwest with the latest news promptly upon its reception. We live in an age of stirring events, properly to reflect which a single edition daily has not sufficed, especially for the important sections of this and adjoining States connected with Chicago by late morning trains, which delay the morning TRIBUNE from five to eight hours after its issue. These reasons have already been referred to as the origin of our midnight edition, anticipating for the roads in question a large share of the next morning's issue.

We commence to-day a more comprehensive plan, of which our readers will not fail to experience the advantage. By the arrangements that go into effect to-day, we shall hold our forms in readiness to issue the latest news promptly on its reception. We shall issue three regular editions of the TRIBUNE:

The MORNING edition for the mails will as heretofore contain the latest news by telegraph and night mails, up to our hour of going to press.

The AFTERNOON edition for the news trade in town and country will be issued at 3 o'clock, following the receipt of our special dispatches and the morning mails.

The NIGHT edition will contain the later special dispatches up to the hour of departure of evening trains.

It will be scarcely necessary to state in advance what our readers will at once see and become accustomed to, that in the arrangement of the news the morning edition will occupy the first and fourth pages, the second and third pages giving the two following editions of each day's issue. We have thus perfected a plan we have had for some time past in contemplation. Our arrangements by special reporters and correspondents at numerous important points are such, as heretofore, to supply us promptly with the record of passing events by telegraph and mail.

COTTON GROWING IN ILLINOIS.

We print in another column a mass of testimony gathered by the officers of the Illinois Central Railroad, in relation to the fitness of the soil and climate of the Southern part of our State for the culture of cotton. It will surprise those who have given this subject no special attention: first, because they have been accustomed to regard cotton as a crop to be cultivated only by slave labor; and second, because few men ever take the trouble to remember that Illinois has a greater range of latitude than any other State in the Union, reaching down at its Southern extremity to a point only a little above the Northern boundary of North Carolina. The careful reading of the many statements, now first presented to the public, will leave no doubt that cotton may be grown in the fields, as an annual and almost certain crop, in all that part of "Egypt" below the Ohio and Mississippi road. That, we think, is demonstrated; but the points to be considered are these: Can cotton be grown as a field crop by free white labor? If so, can it be profitably grown in Illinois? The answer to the first query is furnished by the fact asserted in De Bow's *Southern Review*, (good authority on that point,) that of the nine hundred thousand persons employed in the culture of cotton in the Southern States, one hundred thousand are white men; and De Bow's testimony is confirmed by a report of Israel D. Anderson (Senate Document 112) on the cotton crop of 1852, in which it is stated that not more than eighty-five per cent. of the labor on the cotton plantations is contributed by slaves—fifteen per cent. being performed by the whites. The testimony of the Germans of Texas, who have been peculiarly successful wherever they have touched cotton, and who abhor the labor of slaves; and the daily experience of thousands of small and niggerless planters who, in the midst of a slave population, make their bread by uncertain and fitful industry in their badly tilled cotton patches, seem to leave no doubt that there is nothing in the nature of the plant nor in the methods by which it is cultivated that excludes the labor of men, white or black, who own themselves. And the fact that the cereals, fruits, grasses, roots, &c., are grown in Egypt, year after year, by white men, with no unusual or marked results upon the health of those so employed, renders it certain that a change in the form of their industry would not subject them to new dangers from the attacks of disease.

The answer to the second query is not so clear. When cotton was raised by the men whom the officers of the Company have consulted, it was grown as a makeshift, at a time when money was scarce, when the means of communication were few, when Northern farm produce of all sorts was low in price, and when, instead of spending his money for calico, the Illinois farmer had plenty to do in gathering coin enough during the year to pay his taxes. A domestic crop which would furnish the material for textile fabric was a necessity; and though cotton-growing implied a long and tedious process of cleaning by hand, hand-carding, hand-weaving, etc., it was pursued as the alternative of nakedness. The presumption is, that if the crop had been sure and remunerative, it would not have been thrown aside in face of the fact, that since the days to which we have alluded the staple has been steadily advancing in price, although the cost of woven cotton has steadily decreased. But when we remember the peculiar character of the people of Southern Illinois, and, whatever the truth may now be, their aversion in those days to the steady and unattractive industry demanded for "making a cotton crop," the value of that presumption is destroyed. Again, gins and presses were found but rarely in the country, and to procure them an outlay was demanded, which, in the then opinion, was not warranted by the value of the product of a cotton crop raised without the aid of slaves. But, that the calculation was erroneous, is clear if these "statements" are to be believed. The testimony is that an average crop of about 400 pounds of clean cotton of a good quality was the annual return; that the plant was rarely affected by the frosts, and that the soil seemed well adapted to its growth. These facts once established, the case is made out. By the census of 1830, we know that this yield is far above that of the average plantations in the so-called Cotton States; and though it may be true that an occasional crop has been cut off by untimely frosts, it is also true that the diseases to which the plant is liable in the South, prove far less destructive in higher latitudes in which it will mature.

The sum of the matter is that the experiment of Illinois cotton growing ought to be tried on a scale and with the money and skill commensurate with the importance of the problem which success would solve. We do not suppose that, as in the South, cotton will be the exclusive product of any considerable number of our farmers; but if the Railroad Company can, by furnishing mechanical facilities for cleaning and baling the crop, at suitable places along its line, stimulate each head of family to devote a portion of his land and his labor to cotton planting, we have little doubt that the success attained will in due time warrant the belief that Illinois may add to its other staples an annual crop of 500,000 bales of cotton in no way inferior to the best "upland" of the slave States.

☞ Congress has in effect adjourned over the holidays, or to January 2d, by an understanding that while the most of the members are gone home, the few remaining in town shall meet and adjourn once in three days.

THE POSSIBLE WAR AND THE CARRYING TRADE.

We have had occasion to set forth a few of the probable consequences which would accrue to England, in the event of a war with the United States. In what we said we purposely omitted one result, which, granting all the others to be imaginary and impossible, will not be without important influences upon the action of English statesmen and merchants, in whose hands the question of peace or war rests. Our omission was due to the uncertain position of France; but since she is reputed to be desirous of neutrality, if hostilities are precipitated by the arrogance and unreasonableness of the British Government, we may open the budget and see what new calamities that Government must put in the scale against its rampant desire to humble and mortify the United States.

Our readers will all remember the cause which first gave impulse to the Foreign Commerce of this Republic. At the close of the Revolutionary struggle, and for many years thereafter, our shipping interests were of little or no national importance, save when considered as the nucleus and promise of what was to be. Under the Confederation, there was no central power for regulating our trade with other nations. Each State, acting as a sovereignty, had its own commercial code, and, says a writer in the *Federalist*, "interfering regulations and interfering claims of territory were dissolving the attachments which had cemented and sustained the Union during the ardurous struggles of the war of independence." As a natural result, most of our products went abroad, and most foreign goods were imported, in the ships of other nations. Our fisheries had, it is true, a remarkable growth, because they were not affected by the cause which kept our flag off the high seas. They were the nurseries from which our seamen were afterward drawn. When the Constitution was adopted, and the power of "regulating commerce with foreign nations" was conferred on Congress, all Europe was in a ferment; and during the wars of the Napoleonic period, which ensued, the carrying trade of the world fell into our hands; and though, from 1803 to 1812,—the latter, the year in which we were drawn into the vortex by the violence and lawlessness of the maritime powers—our marine had endured a loss of nearly *sixteen hundred vessels*, seized upon one pretence or another by the cruisers of England, France, Naples, and Denmark. We were, at that date, the possessors of a merchant marine which was the wonder and astonishment not only of our own people but of all the world besides. In those years, the ground work of our subsequent commercial prosperity was laid. In spite of the "Berlin Decree," the British "Orders in Council" and the famous "Milan Decree;" in spite of our own Embargo and Non-Intercourse act, our ships were visitors of every port. They supplied the English with the products of their own colonies, and did the same kindly office for the people of France. The East and West Indies were alike open to our trade, and their rich products filled our warehouses, supplying alike consumption and profitable export. While the European powers were clutching each other in deadly struggle, we, at peace with all the belligerents, were putting down the foundations of our commercial greatness deep and strong. At the present time, the carrying trade of the world is, excluding all other nations, about equally divided between Great Britain and the Great Republic. In a single century, beginning with nothing, contending against sharp rivalry and scientific skill, we have beaten the "mistress of the seas."

We see now that the effect of a war with the United States, would be to compel Great Britain to submit to the commercial growth and aggrandisement of France, by a process precisely similar to that which gave such extraordinary impetus to our commerce when England and France were at war; and that, French neutrality being observed, the world's business would fall into French hands! And this, in English eyes, is no trifle. For many years it has been the ambition of France to be able to cope with her hereditary rival and foe, on the ocean. The decrees of the French Government, particularly since Napoleon III has *filled* the Imperial chair, the efforts of the merchants and the hopes of the people have all pointed in one direction and to the day in which a French Navy should divide with England the dominion of the seas. To the realization of this hope, everything short of the freedom of the people has been contributed, and with results that encourage the belief that only this Americo-English war is needed to make France the first maritime power of the age. The absolute and unqualified certainty, that, in spite of the boasts of the English press that our little navy will be swept off the seas, our privateers will sail where they please and so harrass the unarmed ships of British subjects that they cannot compete in the carrying trade, all Englishmen who are not sodden with their new-born love for Slavery and with national antipathy to our country, will admit. It is equally clear that our vessels, heretofore so profitably employed in the transportaion of the wealth of the world, will either be converted into privateers or suffered to rot at the wharves. The supremacy will be left to France; and it will be a reason outweighing dollars and cents which compels her to take part in the fray.

We know how deep the fear, how profound the jealousy, how rancorous the hatred of France is in every Englishman's heart, and how cordially the latter emotion is, though now covered by professions of good-will, reciprocated by every Frenchman who breathes. That John Bull, who arrogates to himself the offices and dominion of Neptune, will consent to see his rival—divided from him only by a narrow strait—pass into unquestioned possession of the trident, and, at the end of a five years war, emerge from the smoke with a merchant marine and a national navy that will at once give new directions to trade, and dictate war or peace to Great Britain, as Napoleon may desire, is a proposition that may easily challenge belief. But we know not what punishments Heaven may have in store for that English nation! The fatuity of her people and the deep criminality of her rulers in urging a furious, bloody and ruinous quarrel upon our people, in this our hour of peril, in the interest and for the growth and perpetuity of that sum of all villanies, American Slavery, warrant the belief, which is strengthened by God's former dealings with the world, that she is to be made a warning, which, like the fate of the Jews, will forever be for the instruction and guidance of mankind.

DEATH OF PRINCE ALBERT.

By the steamer Persia, off Cape Race on Saturday night, intelligence reaches this country of the sudden death of the Prince Consort of England. Prince Albert was the second son of Ernest, Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, born at Rosenau Aug. 26th, 1819, and at the time of his decease, forty-two years old. His marriage with Her Majesty was solemnized February 10th, 1840, and rarely have the alliances of royalty brought more of domestic happiness, than fell to the lot of this royal pair. Forbidden by his position to interfere with politics, the refined taste and eminent culture of the Prince has made him for years the intelligent patron of arts and sciences throughout the realm. He was a chief promoter of the first World's Fair of 1851. Scientific agriculture owes much to his fostering care and generous encouragement. His own experiments have enriched the lists, and incited competition. For many excellent qualities his death will be sincerely mourned.

☞ Gen. Burnside's expedition will not move until after Christmas, but surely before New Year's.

INDIA THROWN OPEN TO SETTLERS.

Hitherto India, though for a century past in British hands, has never been open to the settler and land owner. Old traditions have prevailed, and that theory of Asiatic government by which all lands pertains to the Sovereign. Landed property in India has never been an Englishman's possession. Independent settlers have never been encouraged. Englishmen have come home wealthy, with yellow skins and diseased livers, but always accumulated their fortunes in Government service. The result has been that India has known no progress. This state of its affairs is noted, and simultaneously a change for the better announced in the London *Times* of the 29th. Lord Canning, by action taken Oct. 17th, has opened India to the settler, and at a rate within the reach of the humblest. Says the *Times* article:

Lord Canning breaks the spell, and proclaims to the world that anybody hereafter may become a freeholder in India as well as in England. Indian estates are now fairly in the market, and the terms are certainly not unattractive.

Waste land, or uncleared land, is offered at the rate of 5s. an acre; for cleared land the price is double. An investment of £700 or £800 would produce an estate of 3,000 acres—rather encumbered perhaps with jungle, and a little too full of large game, but not worse than the swamps of a back settlement in America. Once reclaimed, the soil will bear anything—cotton, coffee, corn, or whatever is desired. The planter has only to select his allotment according to the business which he intends to undertake. For cotton he may take Central India or Lower Bengal; for tea, Northern India, and so forth; but there is scarcely any crop which cannot be raised in some province or other.

It will be curious to see the effect of this proclamation, throwing, as it does, so much more land into the market. The one great thing is that the land is now purchaseable absolutely—"cut-and-cut," as the Americans say. Lord Canning has judiciously refused to clog the bargains with conditions or reservations. He limits the lots to a certain *maximum*, in order to prevent those speculative purchases which are the horror of our Colonial Governments. He does not want to see half a province bought up by some jobber and retailed again at an exorbitant profit; but with this exception he wisely desires "to leave it entirely to the owner's judgment and self-interest to make the best of a grant for which he has once for all paid a fair price to Government." So any man may now acquire property in India.

ENGLISH VIEWS OF THE WAR.

There is no doubt that better counsels are prevailing abroad, and a calmer tone is manifested in the English press that reach us by the last arrival. From a file of late English papers we present several extracts to-day, which show that the surface flurry which greeted the first intelligence of the seizure of Messrs. Mason and Slidell, misrepresents the great mass of the people, and does not foreshadow or pledge in any manner the action of the British Government. With a spirit of calmness and frankness admirable in itself, and most felicitous in the present crisis, the papers from which we quote discuss the question of right, dissevered from national prejudice. The *Manchester Examiner and Times* of the 28th gives copious citations from the highest authorities, and closes its comments thus:

Now, we have to determine, not whether this proceeding is annoying to us as Englishmen, or whether it is wise on the part of the United States. We have simply to ask whether it is legal; whether the United States Government, who gave the orders which the San Jacinto carried out, has in so doing violated the rights which are recognised as belonging to belligerents by international law. This is simply a point of fact. The law in question is acknowledged by all parties. It is as express as the laws recorded in our own statute book. The proceeding comprehends two questions: first, the right of stopping and boarding the British vessel, and second, the right of capturing the Commissioners. The first is the less important, but, probably, the more galling. It is apt to rouse one's blood to hear of a vessel bearing the British flag being brought to by shot and shell fired under her bows, and then boarded by a band of armed foreigners. Yet nothing is more certain than that the Americans had a distinct right to do both. If anything can be construed into an infraction of international law and the Queen's proclamation, it is certainly the carrying of the dispatches and the agents of the Condederate Government. The captain of the Trent has been guilty of an illegal act. He cannot take shelter in ignorance. He knew the real character of his passengers; he took them on board at his own risk, and must bear the consequences. In strict law the vessel was liable to forfeiture, but the American commander forbore to exercise his rights. Instead of making dogmatic assertions, we have preferred to give our readers the aid of one of the highest existing authorities, and thus enable them to verify our conclusions for themselves. When they shall have carefully weighed the whole question, they will, we confidently anticipate, share in our opinion that this occurrence, however much it may be deplored, involves not the slightest violation of international law; that the Americans have only done precisely what, in similar circumstances, we should have done ourselves, and that the duty of intelligent men is to do their best towards allaying an irrational excitement, founded on no principle, and sustainable by no argument, which might otherwise lead to the most calamitous consequences.

A highly intelligent gentleman, just returned from a sojourn of some weeks in England, gives us information, the result of his own observations, sustaining this later view, that no war can grow out of the action of Com. Wilkes, simply because there was no infraction of law. His only fault in these honest English eyes was in not taking the Trent herself into some Federal port for an adjudication that did not belong to his quarter-deck. This is an error no Federal commander will be likely to commit again.

ARMY AND NAVY CONTRACTS.

Repeatedly, since the many developments of fraud in the contracts arising from the military necessities of the country, have we urged the passage of an act, putting all Government contractors, whether for the Army or Navy, on a military footing, and subjecting them, in cases where cheating is proved, to the pains and penalties of Martial Law. The necessity for that policy is daily proved by the shameful chapters which the public prints and the authorized investigating committees are opening to Congress and the country. Fremont's California thieves in St. Louis, one of whom, though under indictment for grave criminal offences on the Pacific coast, was his keeper of the barricades, master of transportation, private secretary, and a Colonel in the "army of the Mississippi." The contracts which these robbers made and Fremont ordered; the disgusting nepotism of the Secretary of the Navy, who permitted his brother-in-law to make $95,000 in commissions for the purchase of vessels, in a few months; the gross misconduct of Alexander Cumming, who was illegally empowered by the Secretary of War to usurp the functions of the authorized agents of the Government, to the great detriment of the public service; the complicity of O. B. Matteson in that "Cataline" contract which proved Thurlow Weed's financial skill; the suffering which our soldiers have endured by reason of the rascality which has been practised in the supply of rations, blankets, tents, stores, &c., &c.; the danger to which they have been made liable by the worthless arms which contractors have imposed upon them by the complicity with scoundrels in office,—these and a thousand and one other transactions of a like character—demand that more efficient measures should be immediately adopted for the protection of the national treasury and the vigorous and economical conduct of the war. We do not see what can be done, unless the policy which we suggest can be legalized by Congress, and robbery of the army and navy made a capital offence.

We are glad to know that a few of the ablest men of the House are at work upon the problem which this subject suggests, and that if they can steer clear of the constitutional difficulties which at first glance seem to lie in the way, they will frame a statute which will be a halter around the neck of every contractor, needing only the proof of scoundrelism to make the rope do its office in stringing him up.

☞ The House did a stroke of business, yesterday. It passed the Senate resolution denying to army officers, under severe penalties, the exercise of negro-catching functions; it also intimated a scheme for increasing the revenue by a heavier duty on tea, sugar and molasses. The Senate was without a quorum most of the day, and did nothing. Hon. Garrett Davis, the new Senator from Kentucky, took his seat.

☞ The separate military district of Cairo, within the department of Missouri, has been created by Gen. Halleck, and placed under charge of Gen. Grant. It embraces, at Cairo, Bird's Point, Paducah, Cape Girardeau, etc., not less than 35,000 men. The rebels at Columbus have 40,000.

☞ The South Pacific has just been the scene of one of the most appalling disasters in the history of ocean narratives. The French transport ship Resource, with six hundred souls on board, was wrecked near Valparaiso, and only five or six out of the entire number escaped alive.

What the British Tories Say.

The Tory organs of England are brim full of wrath against our Government, and are intent on provoking a war. Elsewhere we copy an article from the London *Herald*, the organ of the Derby Tory aristocracy. Among other things it says if the United States shall dare to hang any of Jeff. Davis's pirates, that "such act of atrocity would be fitly punished by the joint intervention of the civilized Powers to *suppress the American Government altogether, as a scourge to mankind and a disgrace to civilization.*"

The Birmingham *Post*, another Tory sheet, says:

"We have but to stretch out our hand to upset the blockade as effectually as if the ships were made of pasteboard, while with the other hand we would destroy the petty Federal navy, reduce American commerce to a nullity, and turn the Northern seaboard into a howling wilderness."

The London *Sunday Times*, the organ of the fancy men and bruisers, follows up the compliment in this tremendously energetic style:

"Capt. Wilkes is, unfortunately, but too faithful a type of the people in whose foul mission he is engaged. He is an ideal Yankee. Swagger and ferocity, built up on a foundation of vulgarity and cowardice—these are his characteristics; and these are the most prominent marks by which his countrymen, generally speaking, are known all over the world. To bully the weak; to triumph over the helpless; to trample on every law of courtesy and custom; wilfully to violate all the more sacred instincts of human nature; to defy as long as danger does not appear; and as soon as real peril shows itself, to sneak aside or run away—these are the virtues of the race which presumes to announce itself as the leader of civilization and the prophet of human progress in these latter days. By Capt. Wilkes let the Yankee breed be judged."

Per contra we are told that the Young Ireland party have been thrown into hysterics of joy at the prospect of a war between England and America. The Dublin *Nation* says the capture of the commissioners on board a British steamer was an

"*Act worthy of the spirit, daring and dash of the Americans*; it was one to make Irish hearts jump with joy." "The news," continues the same organ, "has created wild excitement and enthusiasm in Dublin, and it will awaken similar feelings and sensations throughout the whole country." If the English government resent the insult, then we are told will come "a great time for Ireland." Then will the men who are gone with a vengeance prove vengeful men indeed. Then will the Irish race in America rush to arms and bound into the battle."

If John Bull makes war on this country, he will have to fight the whole Irish race at home and abroad—in Ireland and Canada, as well as the United States. He will find some hard nuts to crack before he has "crumpled up the Yankee nation like paste-board."

Madison (Wis.) Governor's Guard.

Happy was the man who, years ago, learned the manual of arms in such schools of training as the Ellsworth's Zouaves, New York 7th, Boston Tigers, Scott Life Guards, and the other corps that won distinction in our old militia system. The grand army of the Republic has called them all to wear shoulder straps, and yet the demand for material is not supplied. Of the Ellsworth Zouaves there are few who do not rank in the service all the way from Lieutenants to Colonels. Not less than 250 of the New York Seventh are officers. Of one company in Philadelphia, famous for its drill, every man holds a commission. And to add to the list the Madison (Wis.) *Argus* gives us some facts regarding the old "Governor's Guard" of that city. It sums up as follows: Two colonels; five lieutenant colonels; five majors; nine adjutants; four captains; six lieutenants; six commissioned staff officers; and four non-commissioned staff;—in all thirty-two members of the Guard now officers, besides some eight or ten others in the three months' service. One of the old members is in the rebel army.

The Minnesota 1st on the Potomac.

A correspondent of the Stillwater (Minn.) *Messenger*, writing from Gen. Gorman's Brigade, near Edwards's Ferry, mentions a prevalent rumor that the Western regiments in that neighborhood are to be brought into a brigade by themselves, and that Col. Dana, who has succeeded Gorman in command of the 1st, is a prominent candidate for Brigadier General. The troops have been building winter quarters—log houses, in the form of a square cross, 48 feet each way. The weather is "nipping cold," but the health of the troops is good. The correspondent mentions the receipt in camp, among a consignment of stores from Washington, of "two cases of Major Morgan." The men (particularly the Provost) were anxious to see how "Major Morgan" could be put up in two cases, and they looked into the matter. What was labelled as "Major Morgan" proved to be forty-eight bottles of poor brandy, which were confiscated and destroyed.

The Nashville at Southampton.

The consent of the British government that the rebel steamer Nashville go into dry dock at Southampton for repairs, has coupled with it a condition that she shall not receive an armament as a war vessel. How this condition is to be evaded is told in a private letter from which the Boston *Journal* is permitted to quote. The Nashville is permitted to receive "merchandise," and is now hoisting in the cargo. When well out at sea, the port holes will be opened, and a formidable array of *guns* will show how "merchandize" can play havoc among our Liverpool and Havre packets. Of course we should "conciliate" England, even to the extent of humiliating ourselves in the matter of the Trent.

Parson Brownlow.

A refugee from Eastern Tennessee, who reached Cincinnati on Friday last, gave some information touching the whereabouts of Parson Brownlow. It seems that the Parson was given, by the rebels, the alternative of leaving the South or going to prison. He accepted the former. The permit was granted, and the necessary arrangements to leave were being made, when by some treacherous proceeding he was imprisoned, and it is supposed was sent to Alabama, where he now is, unless Gen. Crittenden has had the manliness to make amends for the breach of promise.

Col. Marshall's First Cavalry.

The Springfield *Journal* says it is understood that Col. Marshall's 1st Cavalry, which was at the Lexington surrender, is to be reorganized at once, under new officers, agreeably to the permission granted Col. Mulligan for the Irish Brigade. The companies will rendezvous at Camp Butler, where one (McNulty's) has already arrived.

General Order "No. 24."

There is great curiosity in St. Louis to see the Black List—names of rebel property holders who are to be taxed for the support of loyal refugees. But the list will not be published. It contains some three hundred names, including those of a few ladies. The latter, like some in Chicago, have exercised women's privilege to be as saucy as they please. The amount to be raised is $10,000, and some individuals have been assessed as high as three or four hundred dollars each. Gen. Halleck benevolently permits them to commute for the amount in clothing and provisions. Of the practical workings of this order, and the sudden conversions it induces, the St. Louis *Democrat* of the 23d says:

The work of serving upon certain select gentlemen and ladies a polite notice requesting them to pay some hundreds of dollars each, for their secesh whistle, and for the benefit of the families whom secession has driven from their homes, is vigorously progressing. Quite a large number of these courteous invitations have already been placed in the hands of as many profoundly gratified and highly honored civilians. We learn that, so far, the result has been exceedingly satisfactory in this, *i. e.*, that the recipients disavow any secession sympathies, and swear that they are fondly devoted to the stars and stripes. It will probably turn out that not one of all the elected sixty cherishes any other sentiments than those of cordial patriotism and reverence for the Union!

For the relief of many palpitating hearts, it may be as well to state that, as we understand, only two ladies are on the list of appointed contributors to the $10,000 fund.

☞ Paris letters state that in spite of all denial, it is well known that a large number of recruits are levying in France for the United States. The old Garibaldian officers and volunteers are all being organized for a speedy departure, and are only waiting for the orders of their chief to embark. This chief, a well known French officer, who, after defending the barricades of the Republic in Paris, fought the battles of the Empire in the Crimea, then took service with Garibaldi, and is now in that of Victor Emanuel, has given in his resignation, and was hourly expected in Paris. The clothing-house of Godillot had been busy for the last ten days in making the uniforms of this legion. Ten thousand tunics had been issued from the *usine*, bearing the buttons of the Union. The greater part of these uniforms have been forwarded to Havre, where they are to await the commissaire appointed to take charge of them to New York, and who was on his way from Turin, where he had been to obtain personal instructions from the future commander of the legion.

☞ A prisoner's letter from Richmond, dated the 13th inst., says that since the commencement of the war, and up to the 2d of the present month, 2,685 prisoners have been brought to Richmond. Several battalions have been sent southward, and some released, leaving 1,741 in the prisons who answered roll-call on Saturday, the date mentioned. One hundred and fifty have been sent to Columbia, S. C., and it is not improbable that none will follow. In case an exchange were ordered, in accordance with the usages of war, the majority would be retained at Richmond as the most convenient point to Fortress Monroe.

LATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Mr. Ellet's pamphlet, alleging mismanagement of the army of the Potomac, is being quietly suppressed. Even members of Congress find it difficult to procure a copy.

—Gilbert C. Davidson has retired from the firms of Erastus Corning & Co., and Corning, Winslow & Co., Albany.

—The New York Court of Appeals has decided that to eject a passenger from a railway car while in motion, is so dangerous an act that it may justify the same resistance on the part of the passenger, as to a direct attempt to take his life. Any passenger, for good cause, may be ejected in a proper manner, but his resistance to an effort to expel him, without stopping the car, does not present a case of concurrent negligence on his part. Under this ruling a passenger, who was thrust from a car while in motion, obtained a verdict of $4,000 against a company.

—John L. Wendell, who was years ago reporter of the Court of Errors, Albany, N.Y., died at Hartford, Ct., last week. He was the father of Mrs. Robert B. Minturn of New York.

—The New Jersey State arsenal, at Trenton, has been fitted up for rifling the old smooth-bore muskets.

—According to the accounts given of him in the New York papers, and especially because of his recognition by the United States Assistant Marshals there—which is said to be an identity having no hesitation about it—Capt. Chubb, the commander of the rebel yacht, captured and burned by the crew of one of the launches of the frigate Santee, is the same Chubb (of Charlestown, Mass.,) for whom there is a reward of $1000 offered (as is stated) for breaking jail in Boston, or the Chubb who used to insure vessels and send them to sea in ballast, or loaded with stone, and then destroy the vessel, and next, in due course, claim the insurance.

—The most important loss in connection with the fire at Whitesboro, N. Y., is that of the town records. They are all gone—not a scrap of official history of the town remains. The interest which is attached to this irreparable loss can be properly estimated when it is remembered that Whitestown was the first point settled in Oneida county, and was for years the nucleus of civilization in Central New York.

—The number of batteries at present in Kentucky, exclusive of those at Paducah, is eighteen.

—The Kentucky Legislature is debating what to do with its absent members, eight of whom are now in the revolutionary government at Bowling Green, and six others "absent and unaccounted for." It is proposed to strike their names from the roll. In this connection the Louisville *Journal* says it is somewhat remarkable that Senator Grover and Representative Nevens, both of Owen county, leaders in the "peace" party of the Legislature (that counts a dozen members) are both Northern men by birth.

—The Boston *Traveller* is informed that Gen. Phelps, the hero of the Ship Island proclamation, has been in former years subject to occasional fits of insanity. The fit seems to be on him now.

—The charge against Col. Halsted, of the 1st New Jersey Cavalry, who is undergoing court martial at Washington, is the signing of requisitions on the Quartermaster's Department, without reading them, in the hurry of business.

—Frank E. Merriman of Westfield, Mass., has been expelled from the Massachusetts bar for tampering with election ballots in a newspaper office.

—The Board of Education of New York city, have fixed the salaries of teachers at $1,500 for the highest, and thence down to $450. The highest salary paid a female teacher is $700.

—Out of 20,000 troops at Benton Barracks, there were a few days since 2,300 on the sick list. The deaths range from 50 to 70 a week; or a total of 242 in four weeks. The barracks are called good, but they are badly ventilated. Fatal sickness is the legitimate consequence.

—Gen. Reynolds arrived at Lafayette, Ind., (his residence) last Friday afternoon, on business, and was received by a public demonstration that embraced nearly the entire city.

—Forty-four societies have reported themselves to the Secretary of Iowa Army Sanitary Commission at Lyons, Rev. Geo. F. Magoun, and are efficiently providing for the sick and wounded soldiers of the State.

—The Davenport *Gazette* foots up that the steamboat arrivals during the summer were 747, beginning with 78 in March and ending with 1 in December.

—Next week the cars will be moving from Jackson, (on the Michigan Central,) to within three miles of Lansing, and the directors are using every exertion to have the road opened through in season for the extra session of the Legislature.

—Lieut. Col. Wm. H. Nobles, commanding the 19th New York, (Highlanders') Regiment, at Port Royal, has resigned in order to superintend the collection of cotton in the St. Helena district. This makes the fourth change in the command of the regiment since it took the field.

—Late advices from Tybee say that the stone vessels were not to be sunk in Savannah harbor, as proposed, our possession of Tybee being enough to control the main entrance.

—There are now but three regiments remaining in the vicinity of Ironton, Mo., the 21st, 33d and 38th Illinois, who have comfortable quarters at Ironton, Arcadia and the Knob, respectively. Since August there have been sixteen different regiments at Ironton, besides artillery and cavalry; and the hospital has had in all 647 patients, of whom 41 have died and 72 now remaining under treatment.

—Capt. Chambers, U. S. mustering officer for Iowa, and the new Colonel of the Iowa 16th, will arm his men with the Belgian rifles—if he can find good ones enough in the lot he proposes to pick over.

—The Attorney General of Ohio decides that it makes no difference in what State a citizen enlists into the service of the United States, so far as concerns the claim of his family (if he has one) for relief from the State. This is the first decision of the kind on record. All the other States disown such of their citizens as have gone elsewhere to enlist, and the Adjutant General of Massachusetts has made suit in the courts against a recruiting officer from New York, to test the question as between those two States.

—Mr. Prentice, of the Louisville *Journal*, was to present a flag to Rosecrans's brigade, across Green river, on Monday, (yesterday.)

—Hon. David Tod, the Governor elect of Ohio, on leaving home for Columbus last week was visited by the three hundred employees of the Brier Hill mines, to whom he made a clever little farewell speech.

—City Marshal C. A. Hinckley, of Cleveland, Ohio, has been sentenced to three years in the Penitentiary, for perjury and false swearing, in order to secure the conviction of a man arrested for crime. His case will go to the Supreme Court, however, on a writ of error.

—The mammoth steamer Constitution, that bore Gen. Phelps's division of Butler's expedition to Ship Island, has arrived at Boston, ready to take the balance of the troops and Gen. Butler himself to command the whole. Gen. Butler was expected to return from Washington, (where he had gone for final instructions) on Monday, when the embarkation of the troops would begin at once.

—Wendell Phillips addressed a large and fashionable audience in Cooper Institute, New York, last week, and was listened to with attention. There was a feeble mob outside the hall—to keep up the comparison with "freedom of speech" in the city not many years ago—but the police scattered the scoundrels and arrested the ring-leaders. In the course of his address Mr. Phillips said:

"The Government had the power, and should exercise it, in order to save the Union, to abolish slavery and do justice to the blacks. People might say this was strange language for him—a Disunionist. Well, he was a Disunionist, sincerely, for twenty-five years. He did hate the Union, when the Union meant making white men hypocrites and black men slaves. He did prefer purity to peace. The child of five generations of Puritans, and knowing well the value of Union, he did prefer disunion to being the accomplice of tyrants. But now, when he saw what Union must mean, in order to last; when he saw that we could not have Union without meaning justice; and when he saw twenty millions of people, with a current as swift, as inevitable as Niagara, determining that this Union should mean justice, why should he object to it? He endeavored honestly, and was not ashamed of it, to take nineteen States of this Union and consecrate them to liberty; and twenty millions of people answered him back, 'We like your motto, only we mean to keep thirty-four States under it.'"

—Speaker Grow has named as regents of the Smithsonian Institute, on the part of the House, Representatives Colfax, McPherson and Cox.

—Our stock of saltpeter on hand is quite small, and as the supply from England and India is cut off, prices have advanced from 8c to 20c a pound. Messrs. Dupont & Co., of Wilmington, who have a large contract for furnishing the Government with powder, recently purchased an immense quantity of saltpetre in England, but will not be permitted, under the recent act of the Queen, to import it.

—A magnificent set of silver is to be presented to Governor Hicks, by the loyal men of Kent county, Maryland, as a token of their appreciation of his devotion to the cause of the Union, amid trials and danger. The set consists of a splendid pitcher and salver, and two beautiful goblets.

THE LATEST NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.

OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

WHY GEN. SCOTT RETURNS.

Rumored Position of France.

WILL OUR GOVERNMENT BACK DOWN.

RECESS TAKEN BY CONGRESS.

Proposed Increase of the Tariff.

MORE PRISONERS EXCHANGED.

Terrible Ocean Disaster.

NEARLY 600 LIVES LOST.

New Military District of Cairo.

40,000 REBELS AT COLUMBUS.

VISIT UNDER A FLAG OF TRUCE

Gen. Burnside's Expedition.

Stern Measures in Missouri.

Three Days Later from Europe.

WHAT THEY SAY ON THE CONTINENT

Sudden Death of Prince Albert.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23, 1861.

The following important order from General Headquarters, is published in the Baltimore *Sun*:

The Major General Commanding directs that hereafter all deserters, prisoners, spies, contrabands, and all persons whatever, coming or brought into our lines from Virginia, shall be taken immediately to the quarters of the commander of the Division within whose lines they may come or be brought, without previous examination or communication with any one, except as may be necessary for the officer commanding the advance guard to elicit information regarding his own post. That the Division commander examine all such persons himself, or delegate such duty to the proper officer of his staff, and allow no other person to hold any communication with them; that he then immediately send them, with a sufficient guard to the Provost Marshal in this city for further examination and safe keeping, and that stringent orders be given to all guards having such persons in charge, not to hold any conversation with them; and further, that information elicited from such persons shall immediately be communicated to the Major General Commanding, or to the Chief of his Staff, and to no other person whatever.

The Major General Commanding further directs that a sufficient guard be placed around every telegraph station pertaining to this army, and that such guards be instructed not to allow any persons, except the regular telegraph corps, general officers, and such staff officers as may be authorized by their chiefs, to enter, or to loiter around such station within hearing sound of the telegraphic instruments.

By command of
Major General McCLELLAN.
S. WILLIAMS, Assistant General.

Lord Lyons a day or two since, in giving out invitations orally to his Christmas dinner, apprised his guests that the dinner was contingent upon the necessities of his position, and might be out of question. This afternoon, however, formal cards, unconditioned, were sent around; and this, after an interview with Secretary Seward, which interview rumor declares to have been stormy.

On the whole the feeling to-day is less cheerful, and although no ultimatum has yet been presented, it is understood that Lyons is instructed to make one; but perceiving that our Government is not fully acquainted with the situation, he postpones its delivery until further communications from Great Britain can reach him.

It is believed Gen. Scott brings important dispatches from the French Government. Some think that France promises assistance in case of war with England; others, that he bears intelligence that the Continent coincides with the English view of the law of the case. It is certain that some at first upholding Wilkes have entirely changed ground.

The associated banks have evaded or postponed their suspension of specie payments until the British question is decided. The drain of gold is not very heavy.

Two soldiers have been sentenced to be shot for sleeping on their posts at Fort Monroe. Gen. Wool has approved the sentences, the time of execution to be fixed hereafter.

Col. Kerrigan's trial is postponed a week and Kerrigan is released on parole, meantime. He went to New York this afternoon.

Senator Howe's resolution introduced to-day, proposes to enable the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company to extend their line down the Fox River from Appleton to Green Bay, instead of through the wilderness to the State Line, and to have the benefit of the land grant the same as though constructed on the original plan.

The exchange of Quartermaster Hart, of the 20th Indiana, for Lieut. Grimes, captured at Hatteras, has been arranged.

Mr. Colfax, who has been endeavoring to arrange an exchange of all the 20th Indiana prisoners for rebels taken at Hatteras, is sanguine at least of partial success.

The treaty with Mexico, before the Senate, provides for mortgaging all public lands, including church property, to the United States as a security for the eleven millions to be sent her.

Surgeon Geo. W. New, of the 7th Indiana charged with conduct to the prejudice of good order and discipline, in selling to privates of his own and the 2d Virginia regiments, whisky and brandy, which were a part of his hospital stores for the use of the sick who needed it, and for which he was responsible, and retaining the money received, was convicted by a Court Martial, of which Col. Jones of the 25th Ohio was President, and sentenced to pay over the proceeds of his sales, and to be dismissed the service. Gen. Reynolds has approved the finding and sentence.

WASHINGTON, December 21, 1861.

There are a number of leading financiers here, from New York, considering the suspension of specie payments by the banks. It has been determined that while it is desirable to prevent a flow of specie abroad, the Government can do or advise nothing that looks like a retaliatory measure towards England. If the suspension shall happen, which is not improbable, it will be the banks' own doing.

The horizon toward Great Britain is not more clouded than last night. No official communication has been made by Lord Lyons. It is understood that he has arrived at a tacit understanding with Secretary Seward, in their confidential informal interview, that, in view of the gravity of the crisis, no diplomatic correspondence should be entered into for seven days; so that both could calmly consider this question. Lord Lyons's conduct has been cautious, and those who have the best opportunity of knowing, next to President Lincoln and Secretary Seward, (who are remarkably reticent,) say that no ultimatum, and no imperative demand will be presented; nothing, in short, that will not admit of correspondence for three months, and finally of a recourse to arbitration. The latest article of Lord Palmerston's (London) *Post* looks the same way, and speaks of France and Russia as mediators.

Further accounts of the action near Drainsville increase the brilliancy of our victory. Sixty bodies of the enemy's killed have been found on the field, and ten wounded, and eight unwounded prisoners taken, with a large quantity of arms, ammunition, and clothing. The rebel loss is estimated at one hundred and fifty killed and wounded, and it is believed that Col. Tom Taylor of Frankfort, of the 1st Kentucky rebel regiment, is among the former. The rebel force was composed of the 1st and 11th Kentucky, and 10th Alabama regiments; a regiment of cavalry, and a battery of six guns, all commanded by Col. John H. Forney of the 10th Alabama. We had five Pennsylvania regiments and four guns. Our precise loss is unknown, but the highest estimate is 25 killed and wounded. The engagement was brought on by Gen. McCall, who sent Gen. Ord's brigade to attack a force, discovered near Louisville by a scouting party on a previous day. Two other brigades were posted at a distance as reserves. They took no part in the action. Gen. Ord was fired upon by the rebels from a piece of woods. Gen. McCall, soon arriving, took command, and after an hour's fight the rebels precipitately fled toward Fairfax. At nine o'clock our force reached camp, bringing, besides the spoils of battle, fifty wagon loads of forage. The prisoners are ill-clothed, and say that the whole rebel army is suffering and dissatisfied for want of clothing and food.

Senator Chandler was serenaded last night by the band of the Michigan regiment. In answer to the call, he said the difficulties with England would be amicably adjusted, but we would not yield to her arrogant demands. France would not go to war with us, for we supplied her with bread. Louis Napoleon was not insane enough for that. There was no room on this continent for two Republics, or a Republic and a Monarchy; and the only way to insure peace with England was to have a grand advance of the army to-morrow, and by July the war would be over. England had great respect for six hundred thousand bayonets, and if she went to war there would not be a foot of territory on the North American soil under a British flag.

Col. Michael Thompson, a member of the Washington bar, and a native of South Carolina, was arrested to-day.

The Pensacola is ready for active service. She took a trial trip to Indian Head, to-day.

Gen. Fitz John Porter's Division was reviewed by Gen. McClellan, to-day, and they had a sham fight at the close. It was admirably done. Secretary Cameron and Vice President Hamlin were present.

Secretary Chase has returned from New York.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22, 1861.

Lord Lyons presented his first official communication yesterday, and Mr. Seward is preparing a reply. The New York *Herald* in saying yesterday, in a double-leaded leader, and the New York *Times*, in printing that the Cabinet has decided to return Mason and Slidell, are utterly and mischievously wrong. What will be done rather than fight, remains to be seen. Some shrewdly surmise that rather than surrender, Seward will favor leaving the whole question to the Senate as the Mexican question is left, but it is believed that it will be settled more easily. Assistant Secretary Seward told a Senator yesterday that things looked critical, but nobody save Lyons, with possibly one attache, Seward, the President and perhaps McClellan, have seen the dispatches; others merely guess.

The *Sunday Chronicle* gives a list of eighty-three wounded and seven killed in the Bucktail Rifles and 6th and 9th Pennsylvania Regiments in the Drainsville fight. The rebel loss in men and horses was increased by the bursting of a caisson, in the vicinity of which bodies frightfully mangled were found. Gen. Stewart is now known to have been in command, and is believed to have been killed. He owns a magnificent house in the vicinity of Drainsville, and is noted for daring and cruelty. The rebels were ambushed to attack our men. They advanced along the road; but they did not fall into the rebel trap, but took up a strong position on a hill commanding the rebels. Nineteen of Kane's Rifles held a large brick house in the village, on which shot and shell rained. The rest of the regiment formed in line of battle and charged bayonets, when the rebels attempted to flank, but our men drove them back. The column then advanced through thick undergrowth, but found no living foes. Some Harper's Ferry and Springfield rifles were found on the field, and many shot guns. Some of the knapsacks bore the letters U. S.—doubtless captured at Bull Run—and were filled with rations, short-cake, hard biscuit and boiled beef. Their dead were left on the field.

McClellan speaks of the bravery and devotion of our troops in the highest terms. When the fire from the woods was very heavy, not all of them obeyed orders to lie on their faces in the cleared ground, but they stood unnecessarily exposed, and were thus wounded. Col. Kane's wound is severe, the ball passing through his cheek, breaking a tooth, and was stopped by a bone. He bandaged it instantly, and resumed his place.

The War Department yesterday issued a special order authorizing Gov. Yates to recommission Major Kune and other resigned officers of the Hecker Regiment, (24th Illinois,) either in their own or other Regiments.

The Military Commission convened in New Mexico by Col. Carny, convicted Pueblo Alderita, an Alcalde, of treason, for informing the Texan troops at Forts Bliss and Fillmore, last August, of the evacuation of Fort Stanton, and of giving them aid and comfort when they arrived to take possession. He is sentenced to hard labor during the war, and forfeiture of his property.

The machinery of the Pensacola worked better on her trial trip than was anticipated. She will go down the river on the first opportunity. When she goes to sea, Sickles—still in custody on board—will be released.

FROM ST. LOUIS.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

ST. LOUIS, December 23, 1861.

A special dispatch from Jefferson City to the *Democrat*, dated 2 o'clock, P. M., to-day, says a train of thirty-four cars had passed there, conveying the prisoners taken by Gen. Pope's command, accompanied by a large guard, under Col. Jeff. C. Davis.

It is stated at headquarters that forty of the bridge burners on the North Missouri Railroad have been captured, and a portion of them shot. The *Evening Republican* says that Mr. Flynn, Paymaster of the Road, having $4,000 on hand to pay the employees, probably fell into the hands of the rebels. Troops are at St. Charles waiting to be forwarded through.

Gen. Halleck's order is, in full, as follows:

First—Insurgent rebels scattered through the Northern counties of this State which are occupied by our troops, under the guise of peaceful citizens, have resumed their occupation of burning bridges and destroying railroads and telegraph wires. These men are guilty of the highest crime known to the code of war, and the punishment is death. Any one caught in the act will be immediately shot, and any one accused of this crime will be arrested and placed in close confinement until his case can be examined by a military commission, and if found guilty, he also will suffer death.

Second—Where injuries are done to railroads or telegraph lines the Commanding officer of the nearest post will immediately impress into service, for repairing damages, the slaves of all secessionists in the vicinity; and if necessary, the secessionists themselves and their property. Any pretended Union men having information of intended attempts to destroy such roads and lines, or of the guilty parties, who do not communicate such information to the proper authorities and give aid and assistance in arresting and punishing them, will be regarded as *participis criminis*, and treated accordingly.

Third—Hereafter towns and counties in which such destruction of public property takes place will be made to pay the expenses of all repairs, unless it be shown that the people of such towns or counties could not have prevented it on account of the superior force of the enemy.

Telegrams received at Headquarters state that Col. Bishop sent a force to the North Missouri Road to punish the bridge burners. He killed 10, took 17 prisoners, and thirty horses; five of our men being slightly wounded.

Gen. Pope's expedition to Lexington destroyed the ferry boat and iron foundry at that place, and took several rebel prisoners, including a Captain, one Lieutenant, and four men, with their horses, etc.

The *Democrat* has the following dispatch from the Paymaster of the North Missouri Road:

WARRENTON, Dec. 23.

The Davis Fork bridge was partially destroyed, but not badly injured. The paymaster's train was fired into twice by rebels, numbering sixty horsemen. Two culverts and two flat cars were destroyed and three more injured. At Jeftown, on the Culvere River, a bridge was destroyed, also track torn up, ties burned and property injured between Jefftown and Wellsburg. At the latter place the Station House and all the stock cars were burned. Where the track is torn up the iron is bent and broken.

LATER—10 P. M.—The train bearing the prisoners from Sedalia has been detained, and will arrive about 11 P. M. Two regiments are at the Depot waiting their arrival.

FROM CAIRO.

[Special Dispatch to the Chicago Tribune.]

CAIRO, December 23d, 1861.

Col. Webster, with a flag of truce, delivered to-day the 19 Camp Jackson prisoners, who were sent here by the authorities at St. Louis. He was met about five miles above Columbus by the gunboat Grampus, which was out on a foraging expedition.

By information received from a person who is held a captive at Columbus, the Lady Polk has been replaced by a gunboat of larger calibre. He says the forces there are about forty thousand.

The target practice of the gunboats Essex and St. Louis, yesterday, was highly satisfactory. The target was constructed like the side of one of the new gunboats. The shells and shot had no effect upon it.

The following order was received here yesterday:

HEADQUARTERS DEP'T OF MISSOURI,
ST. LOUIS, December 20, 1861.
SPECIAL ORDER, No. 78.]

Brigadier General U. S. Grant is hereby placed in command of the District of Cairo, including the Southern part of Illinois, that part of Kentucky West of the Cumberland, and the counties of Missouri Southeast of Cape Girardeau. Brigadier General E. A. Paine will be transferred from Paducah to Cairo.

By order of Major General Halleck.
[Signed,] J. C. KELTON, Ass. Adj. Gen.
To Brigadier General U. S. Grant, Cairo, Ill.

THE LATEST FOREIGN NEWS.

Death of Prince Albert.

ST. JOHNS, N. F., Dec. 23.—The steamer Persia passed Cape Race on Saturday night. French papers at Marseilles, Havre and Bordeaux, advised the Government to preserve strict neutrality in case of war between England and the United States.

Some Paris papers, however, advocate the energetic intervention of France. The *Opinione Nationale*, the liberal organ, says France should follow the example of England, should the latter recognize the Southern Confederacy.

Austrian papers are of opinion that the outbreak of war between England and America would *remove the only barrier in Europe against French ambition*, and that France would begin war against Germany. A steamer sailed on the 10th for Canada, with 1,100 troops.

Prince Albert died on Sunday noon, the 15th, of gastric fever. His illness had not previously been considered dangerous.

The Liverpool *Mercury* states that the Earl of Derby has been consulted by the Government, and approved its policy in the American difficulty, and suggested that captains of outward bound ships signalize English vessels. That war with America was probable.

APPALLING LOSS OF LIFE.

French Transport Ship Wrecked near Callao, S. A., and 600 Lives Lost—Only five or six Saved.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The steamship North Star, from Aspinwall 14th, has arrived. She brings $323,000 in treasure.

The French transport ship, the Resource, bound to Callao, was wrecked forty miles south of Valparaiso. She had over six hundred souls on board, only five or six of whom were saved.

GEN. POPE'S EXPEDITION.

His Captured Rebels en Route—Names of the Leaders—Congratulations by Gen. Halleck.

OTTERVILLE, Mo., Dec. 23.—Part of the prisoners captured by Gen. Pope at Blackwater, last Thursday, passed down last night on a special train. Among those sent down are Col. Magoffin, brother of Gov. Magoffin of Kentucky; Col. Robinson, who had command of the rebel force at Blackwater, and who was in the battles of Dug Springs, Wilson's Creek and Lexington; Col. Alexander, who says he fought in all the battles; Lieut.-Col. Robinson; Major Harris; Dr. Smith, one of the wealthiest men and largest slaveholders in Missouri, who has done everything in his power to aid and comfort the enemy; McKeown, Sheriff of Benton county, who, it is said, by misrepresentation gained admittance to one of our camps, made a diagram of it and left, and that night the rebels made an attack and killed sixteen or seventeen of our men; Dr. Moore, of Syracuse, and many others who have gained notoriety by their zeal and labors in the secession army. Many of the prisoners wore a kind of uniform, and have served with Price for several months. They all say they have been well treated by the Federals, and seem to think that they will soon be released by Price. The wagons, horses and mules were turned over to the Quartermaster at Sedalia.

The troops are again in position at Lamine. We were absent on this expedition just five days. In this time we marched about 160 miles in a direct line from this place, and scoured the country through which we passed for a distance of 40 or 50 miles on each side of the route; took about 1,500 prisoners, 1,000 horses and mules, 1,000 stand of arms, 100 wagons, and quantities of stores, supplies and clothing.

Gen. Pope has received the following dispatch from Gen. Halleck:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI,
December 24th, 1861.

TO GEN. JOHN POPE: I congratulate your command on the brilliant success of your expedition. I hope it will be the forerunner of still greater success.

(Signed.) H. W. HALLECK,
Major General Commanding.

This prompt appreciation of their labors and frank acknowledgment of their services, by General Halleck, has completed the happiness of the officers and men of this command, and they will move off with alacrity whenever they are ordered out on another expedition, and will do everything in their power to deserve the commendation of the General commanding.

Destruction of the North Missouri Railroad by the Rebels.

ST. CHARLES, Mo., Dec. 21st.—A preconcerted movement was made last night by the secessionists along the North Missouri Railroad, and by rebels recently returned from Price's army, by which about one hundred miles of the road was nearly destroyed, or at least rendered useless. Commencing eight miles south of Hudson, they burned the bridges, wood piles, water tanks and ties, tore up rails for miles about them, and destroyed the telegraph line. This was continued to Warrenton, where the work of destruction ceased. How many were concerned in this villainous work is not yet known, but there is no doubt but that it was a preconcerted and simultaneous movement of the citizens along the road, as no single party could have accomplished so much in one night. Three hundred of the villains are known to have been engaged in the destruction of the bridge track at Warrenton.

WARRENTOWN, Mo., Dec. 23.—The destruction of the North Missouri Railroad is as complete as was at first stated. At short distances all the way from here to Hudson the track is torn up, ties burned, rails broken, or bent so as to be useless. Wellsburg Station was burnt with all its contents. The large bridge over Davis Fork, on Salt River, west of Mexico, and the bridge crossing Quiver River, were burnt, and all the culverts either burnt or torn down. Cars of all kinds were engaged in this work of wholesale destruction. It is not yet known, but it is stated that the inhabitants along the road say no repairs can be made, except where the road is guarded by Federal troops.

An extra from the Army *Argus* office has been in circulation for two days, which says "the day of retribution is at hand;" that "9,000 men who have been under Gen. Price's command are now north of the Missouri river; that more are coming."

FROM SPRINGFIELD, ILL.

Equipments for the Soldiers at Camp Douglas—Military Intelligence.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 23.—A heavy snow storm prevails, and winter is indeed upon us. The Quartermaster General sends to Camp Douglas, to-morrow, uniforms complete for 1,000 infantry and 500 cavalry, including 3,000 mittens for infantry, and 2,000 cavalry gloves, to warm all the cold fingers in camp. There also goes forward one battery of rifled cannon for Captain Waterhouse, which will arrive Tuesday morning. The uniforms for the two regiments of artillery will arrive this week, and the artillerists in your camp will be taken care of immediately. Active preparations are being made to make these regiments effective, and an honor to the State.

Gov. Yates is now in Washington, and has strong hopes of obtaining arms soon for our cavalry as well as infantry regiments.

The consolidation of skeleton companies and regiments having been completed in Camp Douglas, the same thing commences to-morrow in Camp Butler, and will be continued until the work is perfected. This has been postponed to give every opportunity for filling up all the organizations, and thousands of recruits, who would otherwise have been at home, have been secured. But the General Government has long since been notified that as fast as they would give us arms, we would furnish the men, as long as there was a man in camp. The arms are now about to be given us, and the men rapidly being put into shape to receive them.

THE AFFAIR NEAR DRAINSVILLE

Particulars of the Surprise of General Ord's Brigade—The Defeat and Rout of the Enemy.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Gen. Ord started yesterday morning on a foraging expedition. His command consisted of four regiments—the Buck-tail Rifles, Lieut. Col. Kane, and Eaton's battery, consisting of 12-pound howitzers. They proceeded in the direction of Drainsville, and Gen. McCall anticipating that they might be attacked, ordered the 1st and 2d Brigades to follow at 8 o'clock in the forenoon. The 1st Brigade, Gen. Reynolds, advanced on Leesburg and took a position on Difficult Creek to await further orders. Two hours later, Gen. McCall, with his staff and an escort of cavalry, followed on the same route. In the meantime Gen. Ord advanced to near Drainsville, when his command was suddenly fired upon by a force lying in ambush in dense woods adjacent. This was the signal of battle, and a brisk engagement promptly ensued. Gen. McCall, who arrived a few minutes previously, took command. In a moment's time Eaton's battery was planted alongside the Thornton House, and fired rapidly and with terrible effect in the enemy's ambush. Col. Kane's Buck-tail Riflemen were placed in advance, and fired upon the enemy wherever they made their appearance.

The rebels, who had a battery of six pieces, returned the cannonading, and replied to the rifles with musketry. Firing was kept up some three quarters of an hour, when the enemy retreated rapidly, our fire being too hot for them. Our troops stood up bravely under the sharp volley of the rebels. Their steadiness was praised by Gen. McClellan and his officers.

The rebels took the direction of Fairfax Court House, leaving on the field a number of their killed and wounded. Our troops pursued them a short distance and returned. Several bodies of the rebels were picked up and fifteen wounded prisoners were taken. Gen. Ord captured eight wounded prisoners and two caissons, with ammunition.

In their haste the enemy left behind arms of all descriptions, clothing, &c. Their loss is estimated at 150 killed and wounded. Among their killed was Col. Philor, of Frankfort, Ky., and commander of the First Kentucky Regiment of rebels. The forces of the enemy consisted of three infantry regiments, the 2d and 11th Kentucky regiments, and 10th Alabama, with a cavalry regiment and a battery—all commanded by Col. John F. Forney, of the 10th Alabama, acting Brigadier General. The dead bodies were left on the field.

The loss on our side was six killed and eight wounded, most of whom belonged to the Bucktails. Col. Kane received a slight wound.

At 9 o'clock, p. m., our troops had returned to camp, bringing in fifty wagon loads of forage.

Skirmish Near Fortress Monroe.

FORTRESS MONROE, Dec. 22.—A skirmish took place to-day at Newmarket bridge. Four companies at Newport News, sent out at 9 o'clock this morning, were also attacked by the rebel cavalry and infantry. Col. Max Weber's regiment were ordered to reinforce them, and went to their aid. Col. Woodruff's regiment also went to Hampton Bridge. Three or four were wounded. Particulars are not yet received.

The Tribune.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1861.

FEARFUL TRAGEDY.

A SOLDIER FOUND MURDERED.

Arrest of the Supposed Murderers.

The southern part of the city, and especially Camp Douglas, was thrown into a feverish state of excitement, Monday, by a tragedy which we have long expected. Our only surprise is that so long a time has elapsed without a score of similar instances. Early Monday morning, Mr. Whitney, connected with the establishment of Culver, Page & Hoyne, while proceeding to his business, espied a soldier lying in the snow, on Buena Vista street, between Michigan and Indiana avenues, his head resting upon a military overcoat, evidently not his own, for a pillow. Curiosity prompted him to approach the spot, when, to his astonishment, he discovered that the soldier was dead. No signs of blood were found upon the snow, and he very naturally supposed that the deceased had frozen to death while under the influence of liquor. He accordingly notified the proper authorities, and the body was conveyed to Camp Douglas. Upon examination, his heavy overcoat was found to be gashed. Unbuttoning this, the black woolen shirts beneath were saturated with clotted blood, which had been emitted profusely from a small wound just below the left nipple, only five-eighths of an inch in length. The Coroner was at once notified, the body removed to the city for *post mortem* purposes, and the case was submitted to competent detectives. From these parties we gather the following particulars:

The deceased was John O'Neil, formerly a sailor by occupation, but at the time of his death a private in Company C., Capt. Swan, 57th Regt., Ill. Vols., now quartered at Camp Douglas, and commanded by Col. Baldwin. About half past eleven o'clock on Sunday night, the deceased, in company with Peter Murray and Hugh Mooney, members of the same company, broke out of camp by removing some boards from the southwestern corner of the fence, and successfully escaped the guard. Taking a circuitous route, they came to a saloon on Cottage Grove Avenue, directly opposite the camp, to obtain some liquor, but finding it closed, they kept on their way to the city until they reached the saloon of one Patrick Magner, No. 696 State street, where they entered and remained for a long time. During their stay, the three drank *five quarts of whisky*, and were in an exceedingly intoxicated condition, when a picket guard of the Lead Mine regiment, under charge of Lieut. Myers came in, in search of runaways from that regiment.

Up to this point the stories of Murray and Mooney agree, but here begin to diverge as to their subsequent conduct. Murray alleges that when the picket came in, O'Neil ran into a back room. The picket examined himself and Mooney and ascertaining they were not the parties wanted released them. After this, he says they did not see the deceased; that they returned to camp, reaching there about six o'clock in the morning. Mooney on the other hand says that after the picket left, the deceased, Murray and himself started for camp together; that O'Niel was very much intoxicated and after they had proceeded a short distance he left them and they did not see him again.

It will be remembered that an overcoat was found beneath the head of the deceased by Mr. Whitney. Taking this as a starting point the detectives established the following points: first, that it belonged to Murray; second, that he had it on when he was in the saloon; third, that Murray, Mooney and O'Neill were in the saloon together, and fourth, that Murray came back without his overcoat. These facts were deemed sufficient to warrant the apprehension of both of them, and they were accordingly lodged in jail yesterday morning. When questioned as to the overcoat, Murray pretended to be very much surprised, and at first said he left it upon his bunk and afterwards that he had lost it. The identity of the overcoat was, however, sufficiently established, and a canteen and peculiarly shaped glass bottle found by the side of the deceased, and known to have belonged to Murray, gave additional weight to the supposition that he was knowing to the facts of the murder.

Dr. Gore, the County Physician, held a *post mortem* examination upon the body of the deceased yesterday afternoon. A wound five-eighths of an inch in length was found just below the nipple. It was slightly curved in its general appearance, corresponding with the gashes in the clothing, as if made by a bayonet. Upon further examination it was found that the instrument with which the fatal blow was given had cut through the cartilage of the ribs and penetrated the left ventricle of the heart, thus causing instant death.

The above are the facts, as far as developed, of this fearful murder. The Coroner will hold an inquest this morning which may shed additional light upon the mystery surrounding it. The connection of the two prisoners with the murder, beyond the mysterious presence of the overcoat, canteen and bottle, and their conflicting statements, has not yet been explained, and what still more embarrasses the matter is the fact that neither of them were known to have weapons about them. Another supposition is that the wound was inflicted by some picket guard. Whatever may be the real issue of the case it certainly carries with it a fearful warning to the soldiers at Camp Douglas. The indirect cause of this man's death was liquor, to which too many of the soldiers are addicted. The result is too painfully evident, daily and nightly in our streets, and that numerous scenes like the one we have described, have not occurred, is simply a mere chance. This fatal affray calls for prompt action upon the part of the municipal authorities that similar murderous outrages do not occur in the future. More than all, it calls upon the authorities at Camp Douglas for redoubled vigilance. That the present guard is not sufficient, is evident enough by the scores who break from the camp every night and make their way unhindered to the city, returning in the early hours of the morning. There must be a lack of diligence somewhere where discipline is so poorly enforced.

PROMOTED TO A BRIGADIER GENERALSHIP.—A correspondent writing from Boonville, Mo., to the Rock Island *Argus*, Dec. 15th, states that Col. Julius White, of this city, of the 37th Illinois regiment, has been appointed a Brigadier General, and that Lieutenant Colonel Myron S. Barnes has been appointed Colonel of the regiment. This regiment was still at Boonville on the 15th, and had just been paid off. They were under orders for a "forward movement" under Gen. Pope.

MILITARY MATTERS.—The first instalment of Capt. W. H. Bolton's Battery of Artillery was mustered into service by Lieut. Christopher of the Quartermaster General's Department, at Camp Douglas yesterday. The camp equipage and clothing for the company are now ready for delivery. It is pleasant to note the rapid progress made by this fine corps.

The McClellan Brigade, we are informed, under the command of Col. Lynch of Elgin, Kane county, now at Camp Douglas, is reported full, the Adjutant General having added to its ranks the Yates Rifles. It is the Fifty-eight Illinois Regiment, and is under orders to march by the first of January. Preparations are now being made to that end. The regimental officers of this command, with the exception of Quartermaster George Swain of this city, are all from the country west of us. Colonel William F. Lynch is of Elgin, as stated, Lieut. Colonel Isaac Rockstrauser is of Somonauk, Major Thomas Newlan of Aurora, and Surgeon Henry M. Crawford of St. Charles. The latter gentleman is an old and able practitioner, fully posted in the surgeon's profession, and a gentleman of good general information beside. These appointments, lately made, are all good ones and do honor to the discrimination of Gov. Yates.

The company of artillery, until lately attached to the Fifty-first Regiment—the Chicago Legion—at Camp Douglas, has lately been transferred to the First Regiment Illinois Artillery, Col. J. D. Webster of this city commanding. An election of officers was lately held for this company and the following is the result: Captain, A. C. Waterhouse; First Lieutenant, A. R. Abbott; Second Lieutenant, John A. Fitch; Third Lieutenant, William Chandler; Fourth Lieutenant, A. W. Woodward. First Lieutenant Abbott was until lately a member of Co. A., Chicago Light Artillery and Third Lieutenant Chandler has been connected with Captain Taylor's Battery since its formation. The company is to have a park of James' rifled cannon, it is stated, secured by the State authorities for the entire regiment.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From our own correspondent.]

WASHINGTON, December 19, 1861.

There has been an obvious change wrought in political circles here within a few days. Senators and Representatives who, one week since, were most eager to make a clean sweep of rebel slave property, are to-day stammering and paltering and making signals of distress. I could write names in this connection which would appall the constituents of the gentlemen thus afflicted. They are Republicans. All the Democrats, in or out of Congress, who have made a record on the side of emancipation or confiscation, and a vigorous prosecution of the war, are heroically firm. I saw John Cochrane last night. He has not swerved a hair's breadth from his sagacious and manly position. Those gentlemen who are seemingly preparing to fall down and wallow, as so many have done before them, are political friends of the Administration. History may be searched in vain for a parallel to the conspicuous dishonor and the craven weakness which Washington exhibits in the sunlight of this day of grace. God forbid that I should make the spectacle a whit more gloomy than it is! Two weeks, nay one week, since, he would have been accounted an idiot who ventured to doubt or question the speedy passage of a bill taking from the rebels their greatest element of strength, to wit—their slaves. Now, the wisest and truest men in Congress doubtfully shake their heads or frankly confess their despair of the result. Amendments, commitments, delays, dodges, recommitments, disagreements between the two houses, committees of conference, adjournments and the whole category of cowardly evasions and sneaking hostility under the guise of friendship, loom up palpably and grimly before us. The people can save us from the body of this death, and they alone.

The most natural inquiry is, What has produced this change? What, let me ask, is it that usually produces such changes at the Federal capital? What is it that usually drives the representatives of the people into submission to the behests of slavery? What is it that has heretofore robbed them of the manhood which God entrusted to their unworthy keeping? What is it that has generally steeped their brains and softened their spinal columns in this debased and debasing metropolis? It is not a little remarkable that simultaneously with this apparent change—this evident lowering of sentiment on the twin subjects of slavery and the war—important discoveries have been made in the volume of *Papers Relating to Foreign Affairs* submitted to Congress in connection with the President's Message. "The condition of slavery in the several States," says Mr. Seward to Mr. Dayton, (page 182), "will remain *just the same*, whether it [the rebellion] shall succeed or fail." Numerous passages of like import are found in the instructions of the Secretary of State to Minister Adams and Minister Corwin. A ludicrous circumstance is noticed in connection with Mr. Corwin's mission. Mr. Seward instructs him to keep out of view any *moral causes*, which may be supposed to lie at the bottom of the strife between the Government and the rebellious districts, but before receiving this dispatch Mr. Corwin writes that he has sedulously laid before the Government and people of Mexico the *moral causes* lying at the bottom, etc., etc.! Recurring to the dispatch to Mr. Dayton, it is quite generally remarked that if the condition of slavery is to remain just the same, under all circumstances, and in every event, measures must be taken to prevent any new legislation on the subject. Else the infallibility of Mr. Seward will be impugned. The views of Messrs. Chase, Cameron and Welles, as plainly expressed in their reports, differ diametrically from those held at the State Department. How stands the President? I can only say that the information given in a previous letter came from the best available source, but that I cannot undertake to be more consistent than my informant. He may have been mistaken; if so, I have been mistaken also, and if so, the President more nearly coincides with Mr. Seward than with Messrs. Chase, Cameron and Welles. The reader will perhaps pronounce all this as mystical and absurd as an oracle out of Delphos. Let it be replied that I would do no injustice to the President of the United States, nor say ought which should abate the confidence of the people in him, for upon his shoulders rests an awful responsibility. If, with the means placed at his disposal, he shall fail, his own reflections will be more than he can bear; and let it not be said that my indiscretion placed any straws in the way by which the country might have been saved. Let this stand in the place of any more positive statements as to the ground taken by the Executive.

I have telegraphed you the principal features of the report of the Van Wyck Committee, so-called, which was submitted by Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, a day or two since. The astounding nature of the revelations there made is not yet generally understood by the members of Congress. The report, embracing 136 pages, has been admirably prepared and condensed by Mr. Washburne from some 1,200 pages of testimony; yet such matters do not *really* become public here until they come back with the newspapers, with each item reduced to a paragraph which may be comprehended at a glance. With all the diligence which could be used by the representatives of the New York and Philadelphia papers on Tuesday evening, they hardly penetrated through the crust of the corruption, and hence Washington is still in quite an opaque ignorance of the contents of the document. I met three Senators this morning who confessed that they knew not a syllable of its revelations. Hence it cannot be said that it has created any sensation here, except among those whose business it is to ransack all such volumes and give the gems to the public as fast as possible. In the course of a day or two more, there will be gnashing of teeth here, if not weeping and wailing, over the pages of that report. There are some mysteries about it which defy solution. The clearance of the steamer Cataline is one. The only things that can be found out are, that Collector Barney refused, under the regulations of the Treasury Department, to grant a clearance for her cargo—that repeated efforts were made to procure the clearance—that finally Thurlow Weed got a military pass for her from Gen. Wool, and that Gen. Wool shortly afterwards sent word to Collector Barney that he had been imposed upon, and that the Cataline must be prevented from sailing. A steamer was sent after her, but it was too late; not a moment had been lost by the Captain of the Cataline after getting his pass. The committee have examined everybody and everything to elucidate the mystery, but in vain. Another very strange thing is the influence or motive which induced Gen. Wool to direct Col. Tompkins to charter vessels from Capt. Comstock. Comstock is shown to be a scoundrel of the worst sort. Who introduced him to the confidence of Gen. Wool? Still another query is this: What manner of man is Mr. James Humphrey, the confidential clerk of Alexander Cummings? Who is he? Where did he come from? Where did he go to? We know only that he was recommended to Cummings by Thurlow Weed, and that he went up to Albany to buy beef and pork of the hardware firm of E. Corning & Co. In fact, the nose of Thurlow Weed is hardly less prominent in this part of the report than it is on his own face.

To believe that there is really a plan for bringing the war to a successful issue, and that that plan is a military plan, and that it is entertained by the commanding General, is *something*. I know many persons here, reputed to be wise, sagacious, penetrating men in the States or districts which they represent, who would hoot me for a greenhorn if I were to utter the conviction audibly. Yet I believe there is such a plan—a military plan, and not a diplomatic or a financial plan. Whether it contemplates fighting the enemy in the usual way, or destroying them by fire balloons, or frightening them to death with gongs, I know not. I rejoice in the belief that there is a military plan. The range of debate in both Houses of Congress for two or three days past has rather implied a want of confidence in the Executive branch of the Government, both as to its civil and military functions. The feeling is very general that if we come out of this conflict with a national flag, a national motto, a history which posterity will not blush to read, we shall have more abundant cause to thank Almighty God than did our fathers in the dreary season of Valley Forge. Whether this feeling is well or ill founded, let the reader judge. Unless the news from England has disconcerted the proposed operations in the field, I predict that there will soon be genuine war where the public have learned to look only for sham battles and waste of gunpowder.

The speech of Mr. Carlile, of Virginia, in reply to Gen. Jim Lane, was, in a feeble way, almost as unpatriotic as anything ever uttered by Mason or Hunter. It has been frequently remarked, since its delivery, that the country has not gained much by sending one of the F. F. V.'s to Fort Warren, and conferring $3,000 per annum and mileage on another. Mason had some brains; Carlile has none. The only part of his argument which had any vitality was a rehash of Breckinridge's speech at the extra session—a fact which Gen. Lane very pointedly turned against him. All else was the usual balderdash about "negro thieves" and the "inhuman, unholy crusade against American constitutional *liberty*"—by which Mr. Carlile meant the proposition to confer liberty on the slaves of rebels.

FROM MISSOURI.

[Special Correspondence of the Chicago Tribune.]

SEDALIA, Mo., Dec. 20, 1861.

Last evening our camps and this little community were all disheartened by the news of the return of Gen. Pope's army, and the long line of teams and army wagons, filled with commissary stores, accompanied with an escort of soldiers, were seen coming over the prairies, and every one said, "Another Fremont expedition; and its forward and back; ride out at Uncle Sam's expense, and ride back!" But this morning every one is rejoicing. Gen. Pope is coming back, but with 1,800 prisoners, and all of Price's teams and stores, which were on the way to join Price at Osceola. Gen. Pope captured them all. Now cheer after cheer is ringing among all the camps, and all feel there is glory enough for one day. to-morrow morning we are to witness the grand entry of the cavalcade, and the regiments intend to give it a warm reception. All say it will crush out secesh in this part of Missouri.

Yesterday a bearer of dispatches came in with information that our army at Clinton, 30 miles from here, had taken Price's bearer of dispatches, in which "Price says he is badly off, and that Pope, Sigel and Hunter are getting him in close quarters."

On the 18th Col. Beach, of the 25th Indiana regiment, with four in company, was surrounded as he was rejoining his regiment in Gen. Pope's army. One soldier was killed. The bearer of dispatches to Gen. Pope was taken prisoner, and Col. Beach was taken prisoner also, but released on condition that he would aid in the release of a secesh held as prisoner at this place. He says guns bristled from the woods on all sides, and the secesh were very bold.

THE SITUATION IN KENTUCKY.

THE SKIRMISH ON GREEN RIVER.

Prospects of a General Engagement.

[Special Correspondence Chicago Tribune.]

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Dec. 20, 1861.

An undue importance has been given to the skirmish which lately occurred on Green river bank between the scouts of Col. Willich's regiment, and doubtless the idea has been impressed upon the minds of your readers that we are near a great and decisive battle in this State. This is the wrong impression. The truth is, we appear to be as far from a battle to-day as ever.

I wrote to you that Green river had been crossed by the brigades of Gens. Johnson, Rousseau and Negley. This was for the purpose of making a reconnoissance. It was necessary that it should be done in force, for the position of affairs on the south bank of the stream was imperfectly known. No enemy was found, and Col. Crittenden was established at the bridge and on the south side of the stream one mile below Munfordsville, while the detachment of Col. Willich's regiment was placed at a hill two miles east of the railroad and three miles from the crossing at Munfordsville. As soon as it was known by the rebels that a crossing had been effected, they advanced in force from Cave City, but before they had arrived our forces were withdrawn, with the exception of the pickets of Col. Willich and the guard at the bridge. These latter were protected by Capt. Stone's battery of rifled pieces, stationed on the northern bank of Green river. The attack on Willich's men was made by the advance of a large force of rebels, whose retreat on the death of their leader caused a halt on the part of the rebels. Batteries were advanced to the northern shore of the river for the protection of our men on the other shore. A few rifled pieces were opened on the rebels, but at ineffective distance. In this position the parties now stand—the rebels determined to give the Federal troops a warm reception when they are ready to cross in force. This the Federals will do when the men now engaged in rebuilding the railroad bridge have completed it. One hundred and fifty hands are now employed upon it, and the cars will probably test their workmanship in a fortnight. Then, and not till then, when supply trains can follow unobstructedly, will an advance in force be made. Then there lies forty miles, and perhaps as many days, between us and the rebels. At the end of the time and the trip named we shall probably have a grand battle. Whatever its result may be it can only be a check if adverse to the Federal troops. To the rebels an adverse termination will make the battle a decisive one. It is gratifying to feel that all that can be effected to ensure for the Union cause a great victory is being done. In the centre division of the main army there are not less than 50,000 men, and ten or twelve full and complete batteries, of the finest quality, manned and supported by regulars.

Eastern Kentucky (as I telegraphed) is being overrun and devastated by the forces under Humphrey Marshall. The Union men have been driven out of the principal towns of that district. Col. Moore, in command of a regiment of Ohio troops, has fallen back from Louisa upon Greenupsburg. Humphrey Marshall's force took possession of the town on the 17th. It was reported that he intended following up Col. Moore. It is not improbable Greenupsburg may share the fate of Guyandotte. A thousand rebels are encamped at Owingsville, in Bath county, where they propose wintering. This is the same force which took possession of West Liberty on 15th inst. They carried off all that was valuable in the shape of food and clothing.

Gen. Shoepff still holds Zollicoffer in check at Somerset. Zollicoffer has made no attempt to cross, but on the contrary, made a move indicative of an intention to retire. This was on the 15th. General Shoepff immediately made demonstrations towards him, and the intention to depart was abandoned. It is understood that this coquetting on the part of Gen. Shoepff, is with the intention of allowing Gen. Boyle time to reach Monticello, in the rear of Zollicoffer.

Capt. Prime, of Gen. Buell's staff and chief of the corps of engineers, is a prisoner at Nashville. He was wounded and then taken by Zollicoffer's men. Capt. Prime is of the regular army, and one of the most important officers of Gen. Buell's command.

John C. Breckinridge's Congressional District has sent 5,015 men to the Federal army, and 10,000 to the rebels. The evil influence of Breckinridge, Powell, Magoffin and Marshall is the cause of this sad defection in this quarter. The whole force of Kentucky, at present under enlistment is 28,000.

OUR BEAUFORT, S. C., LETTER.

The Occupation of Beaufort—The Town and its Surroundings—A Southern Eden Invaded—"A Proud and Hospitable People," and how they Vacated their Premises—Will there be a Fight?—The Negroes, what they Say—The Weather—A Small Skirmish—Plan to Burn the Town Defeated—"Uncle Tom's Cabin" &c., &c.

[Special Correspondence of the Chicago Tribune.]

BEAUFORT, (S. C.) Dec. 10, 1861.

I wrote you a line a few days ago, saying that our Brigade (2nd) had been ordered to the main land. I was in error, but it was at the time so reported. We are in fact now encamped ashore on an unoccupied square of this most lovely and lately most aristocratic and Yankee-hating town of Beaufort, the very centre of aristocratic negrodom, and only surpassed, if at all, by Charleston herself. A few short weeks ago and their shady walks, their richly furnished dwellings, echoed to the expressed scorn and hate uttered from a thousand tongues; but times change—none occupy its festive halls or parade its streets but good Unionists, to-day. She was the home, the luxurious home, of the Barnwells, the Rhetts, the Stuarts, the Bells and the Verdiers: and their sumptuous dwellings, massive furniture, abundant ornaments and well filled libraries, bespeak great wealth and refined taste.

There is no town of the size of this in the North that compares or approaches in wealth and abundance to this. Every house is or was full of evidences of wealth and refinement. Fine houses, fine gardens, beautiful shrubbery, pianos, books, stationery, vases, grand portraits, these are the surroundings and appliances of, I may say, every dwelling in Beaufort. We have struck a blow at their most tender portion of the hotbed of secession.

While on Hilton Head it was an occasional planter who with his abundant teams and vehicles had carried off most of his valuables, but I could but appreciate the full effect of our descent and their hegira, until we came to Beaufort and beheld a whole town from which the inhabitants had fled with scarce anything but a tithe of their valuables, leaving their *Lares* and *Penates* to be desecrated by the "invader;" all their hidden secrets of home and family, all their confidential nooks and corners, all their most free and intimate correspondence, to be peered into and studied over and shouted over and coughed at by the "Yankee." Here are the boasts of men written coolly on paper, to "drive the enemy back into the sea," and to "wade in blood before their own doors," &c., &c., *ad nauseam*; but where now are your boasters, that were wont to set our newspaper readers in a roar? "Quite chopfallen;" they have left for up the rivers, towards the "up country."

Beaufort was occupied as a summer residence by numerous wealthy families of fortune; and many rich planters, who seemingly discouraged the ingress of a commercial spirit; and choosing to purchase all articles of scarcity or excellence from distant cities, had made this a secluded and exclusive Eden, where no upstart counter-jumper could tread upon their heels, or "impudent white trash" of any sort gain a foothold. The men were aristocratic, the women were aristocratic, the rules of the Beaufort Billiard Club show it to have been an aristocratic club; so was the magnificent public library, so the churches, but pride and arrogance have made the longest kind of strides for "thicker timber," and thereat we "the greasy," &c., do greatly rejoice. We are unable to get a sight of the unfortunate rebels, and there is no excitement of any kind, or any prospect of a meeting with them. Gen. Stevens is throwing out pickets and striving to gather information in regard to the enemy, but his plans or instructions from Gen. Sherman are not even hinted at. We are here, but do not know how long we shall stay.

Now, you will perhaps wish to know what kind of an opinion one forms, who is here in the midst of the thing, of the conduct of the enemy and the prospect of an engagement. Not from their actions entirely, or the reports of the negroes, or in a boasting spirit, but from a careful survey of all these, I conclude that we cannot bring them to another decisive engagement until their *fighting men* return from the Potomac. Their Home Guards don't mean to fight. Their fighters went to Virginia; if they come back they may engage us. I think we shall not be opposed in our advance unless they do.

I took a negro who had been for four days coming down from the Ashepoo river on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad. The General carefully examined him by testing him upon known facts. I think he was satisfied that the man's story was in the main correct. Like all the rest, he told of the dismay and terror which our advent had caused among "the white folks." "Just de sound ob de guns" was enough to scare them all off. It is curious to see the wonder with which they gaze upon the troops, the preparations, the guns, the artillery, the uniforms and the bands of music. Their emotions found expression in a thousand different exclamations. "Mussiful God," "My Jesus," and looks and actions which show that all these things are perfectly new to them; "so many soldiers," "Where do they all come from?" &c., &c. The plantation negroes, especially, who are now flocking in here, go about and gaze at the regiments on guard duty, or at drill, or on parades, as if they were in a dream; they whisper words of surprise among themselves and would not be more perfectly lost in wonder and astonishment if they were presented with the Lamp of Aladdin.

The weather here is perfectly delightful. The gardens and front yards are full of flowers in full bloom. Roses, verbenas, asters, and varieties which will not at the North flourish in the open air, are here in summer like profusion. It seems strange to see it thus, while you are possibly shoveling off your sidewalks, or at least slushing in the cold and cheerless mud. We have to-day learned that a reinforcement has reached Hilton Head from Fortress Monroe, and have heard that Gen. Butler has entered the Edisto river and has effected a landing on the main, but that we do not fully credit.

Our pickets night before last heard a small body of horsemen (who were found to be rebels) approaching at full gallop. The cry of "halt," brought them to a stop, the leader exclaiming with an expletive, "Let's get out of this." Our pickets fired, and, as is supposed, floored one, as a horse saddled and bridled was caught near bye, but not the rebel. They returned the fire with pistols, and a small ball grazed the neck of one of our men, making an ugly raking gash, but nothing dangerous. It is said that there were about 40 who had been in the habit of visiting the island nightly, but the scare of night before last has kept them out of sight since. The cotton and corn barns are nearly all destroyed, with contents, and intelligent negroes report that their programme was to burn their town on night before last, which was prevented by our advance and occupation of it. Not a man of our division has been killed by the enemy, and the one above mentioned, the only one wounded. I do not speak of the naval combat. A shell exploded in the 50th Pennsylvania regiment, killing one and wounding four or five. It had failed to explode—was lying near their camp where it had fallen, and a careless soldier passing with a pipe knocked the ashes out of it into the fuse hole, when it exploded—mangling him so fearfully that he survived but a few hours.

Copies of Uncle Tom's Cabin are in the various private libraries. I saw a copy to-day. You would be amused to hear some of the letters read, which are found here.

THE WAR ON THE BORDER.

RUFFIAN RAIDS INTO KANSAS.

Punishment of Secessionists—Burning of Papinsville, etc.

[Special Correspondence of the Chicago Tribune.]

MOUND CITY, Linn County, Kansas, Dec. 16.

The exciting events for the past week have made it one of deep anxiety to many of our citizens. On Sunday afternoon, Dec. 8th, a messenger brought news that a force of some 800 rebels was crossing the State line at Barnsville, some 11 miles east of us, and that their destination seemed to be for our place. Runners were sent into the surrounding country to the few left able to fight to come in and help us, and an express sent to Col. Montgomery, who was with his forces at Ossawatamie, some 30 miles north of us, to come to our aid as soon as possible. By 8 o'clock we had gathered a force of some 50 men, determined to give the rebels fight should they come to us. Scouts were sent out, and guards placed at every probable point where they might come in.

The night, however, passed away, and no foe made his appearance, although some 350 men came to within five miles of our place; but by some to us unaccountable means, wheeled and commenced a retrograde movement back to Missouri, robbing and alarming what few inhabitants there were left east of us along the State line, and, in one instance, murdering in cold blood an old man, innocent of any crime, by the name of Seawright, plundering the women and children of their clothing, and not leaving a piece of cloth or sheet to cover the old man's cold and lifeless form.

On Tuesday Colonel Montgomery arrived here with his command, and on Thursday three companies of cavalry, under the command of Major Williams, were sent to Butler, and several companies of infantry, under Capt. Foreman, to Papinsville, with orders to try and find the marauders and recover the stolen property, if possible, for the owners, many of whom accompanied the troops. The cavalry companies proceeded to Butler, saw about forty secesh, who ran away at their approach, took several prisoners and burnt a part of the town. Capt. Foreman, when within some few miles of Papinsville, learnt that a man by the name of Landers, a noted border ruffian of '56 and '58, was one of the leaders of the gang, as also a man by the name of Jackman, living three miles east of Papinsville. He immediately proceeded to the house of Landers, but the bird had flown. A large amount of the stolen property was found in the old man's dwelling which was removed and placed in the wagons. He then notified the family to remove all their clothing and all the children's clothes from the house, and when thus removed, applied the torch and laid it in ruins. He also served several others on the road who he learned had been connected with the gang, the same way; and when he arrived at Papinsville, found a large collection of stolen cattle and horses, yarded in the town, which he turned over to the owners as fast as identified, and learning that no Union man had or could live in the place for the past few months, applied the torch there also, and soon Papinsville was known only by the ashes that marked the spot where it once stood. Marching thence on to the house of the notorious Jackman, a man of considerable wealth, that, too, soon shared the fate of the rest, and not a house, outhouse or barn was left. Yesterday he returned to this place with two prisoners, a large train of Missouri refugees with their families and stock, many of whom had been trying to get away for some time, but dare not for fear of being killed or robbed; bringing with him fifty-seven head of confiscated cattle, five horses, two yoke of oxen, one wagon, and a large lot of hogs, which to-day were turned over to the Government.

Gen. Denver and staff are now at this place, besides several officers of the Kansas Brigade, together with the 3d and 5th regiments of Kansas volunteers.

On Saturday, a train of some thirty Government wagons, with one hundred and fifty tons of clothing and military goods, arrived here, and is now unloading at the Court House. To-day very reliable information has reached here that a rebel force of 23,000 is encamped along between 20 miles east of Papinsville and 25 miles west of Sedalia, occupying an extent of some 50 to 70 miles in length. What their intentions are is not fully known, although they say it is the subjugation of Southern Kansas and the occupancy of all the towns in Missouri, at least south of the river. Of one thing, however, I believe the officers in command here feel certain, and that is, that unless a heavy force is sent and kept in Southern Kansas, it will become the prey of secesh arms, and the Union families must leave.

GEN. SCOTT'S PARIS LETTER.

What he thinks of the Mason-Slidell Imbroglio, and his Counsel to Europeans and Americans.

The letter of Gen. Scott, published in the Paris and London journals, has been added to his own foreign dispatches as producing a good effect, and we give the letter beneath in full. It was published through the agency of Mr. John Bigelow, our Consul at Paris:

MY DEAR SIR: You were right in doubting the declaration imputed to me, to wit: that the Cabinet at Washington had given orders to seize Messrs. Mason and Slidell, even under a neutral flag, for I was not even aware that the Government had had that point under consideration. At the time of my leaving New York it was not known that the San Jacinto had returned to the American seas; and it was generally supposed that those persons had escaped to Cuba for the purpose of re-embarking in the Nashville, in pursuit of which vessel the James Adger and other cruisers had been dispatched.

I think I can satisfy you in a few words that you have no serious occasion to feel concerned about our relations with England, if, as her rulers profess, she has no disposition to encourage the dissensions in America.

In the first place, it is almost superfluous to say to you, that every instinct of prudence, as well as of good neighborhood, prompts our Government to regard no honorable sacrifice too great for the preservation of the friendship of Great Britain. This must be obvious to all the world. At no period of our history has her friendship been of more importance to our people, and at no period has our Government been in a condition to make greater concessions to preserve it. The two nations are united by interests and sympathies—commercial, social, political, and religious, almost as the two arms to one body, and no one is so ignorant as not to know that what harms one must harm the other in a corresponding degree.

I am persuaded that the British Government can entertain no doubt upon this point, but if it does, I feel that I may take upon myself to say that the President of the United States, when made aware of its existence will, lose no opportunity of dispelling it.

Nor is there anything, I venture to affirm, in the seizure of these rebel emissaries, which ought to receive an unfriendly construction from England. Her statesmen will not question the legal right of an American vessel of war to search any commercial vessel justly suspected of transporting contraband of war; that right has never been surrendered by England; it was even guaranteed to her by the Treaty of Paris, and British guns frowning down upon nearly every strait and inland sea upon the globe are conclusive evidence that she regards this right as one, the efficiency of which may be not yet entirely exhausted. Of course there is much that is irritating and vexatious in the exercise of this right under the most favorable circumstances, and it is to be hoped that the day is not far distant when the maritime States of the world will agree in placing neutral commerce beyond the reach of such vexations.

The United States Government has been striving to this end for more than fifty years; to this end early in the present century, and in its infancy as a nation, it embarked in a war with the greatest naval power in the world, and it is even now a persistent suitor at every maritime court in Europe for a more liberal recognition of the rights of neutrals than any of the other great maritime nations have yet been disposed to make. But till those rights are secured by proper international guaranties upon a comprehensive and enduring basis, of course England cannot complain of an act for which, in all its material bearings, her own naval history affords such numerous precedents.

Whether the captives from the Trent were contraband of war or not, is a question which the two Governments can have no serious difficulty in agreeing upon. If Mr. Seward cannot satisfy Earl Russell that they were, I have no doubt Earl Russell will be able to satisfy Mr. Seward that they were not. If they were, as all the authorities concur in admitting, agents of the rebellion, it will be difficult to satisfy impartial minds that they were any less contraband than a file of rebel soldiers or a battery of hostile cannon.

But even should there be a difference of opinion upon this point, it is very clear that our Government had sufficient grounds for presuming itself in the right, to escape the suspicion of having wantonly violated the relations of amity which the two countries profess a desire to preserve and cultivate.

The pretense that we ought to have taken the Trent into port, and had her condemned by a prize court, in order to justify our seizure of four of her passengers, furnishes a very narrow basis on which to fix a serious controversy between two great nations. Stated in other words, an offence would have been less if it had been greater. The wrong done to the British flag would have been mitigated if, instead of seizing the four rebels, we had seized the ship, detained all her passengers for weeks, and confiscated her cargo. I am not surprised that Capt. Wilkes took a different view of his duty, and of what was due to the friendly relations which subsisted between the two Governments. The renowned common sense of the English people, I believe, will approve of his effort to make the discharge of a very unpleasant duty as little vexatious as possible to all innocent parties.

If, under these circumstances, England should deem it her duty, in the interest of civilization, to insist upon the restoration of the men taken from under the protection of her flag, it will be from a conviction, without doubt, that the law of nations in regard to the rights of neutrals which she has taken the leading part in establishing, requires revision, and with a suitable disposition on her part to establish those rights upon a just, humane, and philosophic basis. Indeed, I am happy to see an intimation in one of the leading metropolitan journals which goes far to justify this inference. Referring to the decisions of the English Admiralty Courts now quoted in defence of the seizure of the American rebels on board the Trent, the London *Times* of November 28th says:

> "So far as the authorities go, the testimony of international law-writers is all one way, that a belligerent war cruiser has the right to stop, and visit, and search any merchant ship upon the high seas. * * * But it must be remembered that these decisions were given under circumstances very different from those which now occur. Steamers in those days did not exist, and mail vessels, carrying letters wherein all the nations of the world have immediate interest, were unknown. We were fighting for existence, and we did in those days what we should neither do now nor allow others to do, nor expect ourselves to be allowed to do in these days."

If England, as we are encouraged to hope, is disposed to do her part in stripping war of half its horrors by accepting the policy long and persistently urged upon her by our Government, and commended by every principle of justice and humanity, she will find no ground, in the visit of the Trent, for controversy with our Government. I am sure the President and people of the United States would be but too happy to let these men go free, unnatural and unpardonable as their offences have been, if by it they could emancipate the commerce of the world. Greatly as it would be to our disadvantage at this present crisis to surrender any of those maritime privileges of belligerents which, sanctioned by the laws of nations, I feel that I take no responsibility in saying that the United States will be faithful to her traditional policy upon this subject, and the spirit of her political institutions.

On the other hand, should England be unprepared to make a corresponding sacrifice; should she feel that she could not yet afford to surrender the advantages which the present maritime code gives to a dominant naval power, of course she will not put herself in a false position by asking us to do it. In either case, therefore, I do not see how the friendly relations of the two Governments are in any immediate danger of being disturbed.

That the over-prompt recognition as belligerents of a body of men, however large, so long as they constituted a manifest minority of the nation, wounded the feelings of my countrymen, I will not attempt to deny, nor that that act, with some of its logical consequences, which have already occurred, has planted in the breast of many the suspicion that their kindred in England wish them evil rather than good; but the statesmen to whom the political interests of these two great peoples are confided, act upon higher responsibilities and with better lights; and you may rest assured that an event so mutually disastrous as a war between England and America, cannot occur without some other and graver provocation than has yet been given by either nation.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Hotel Westminster, Paris, Dec. 2, 1861.
To ——, Esq.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, December 23, 1861.

Mr. GRIMES, of Iowa, gave notice that he should introduce a bill to have some of the wards of the hospitals in Washington, placed under the care of a Homœpathic physician.

Mr. LANE, of Indiana, presented the credentials of Hon. Garrett Davis, Senator elect from Kentucky, in place of Breckinridge, expelled.

Mr. DAVIS appeared and took the oath of office.

Mr. SIMMONS, of Rhode Island, offered a resolution that a select committee of three be appointed to consider the expediency of connecting some of the military and naval stations on the coast by submarine telegraph. Adopted.

After the executive session the bill to increase the number of cadets at West Point was taken up. WADE and others opposed the bill. CHANDLER said he was ready to abolish West Point altogether. It was one of the causes of the rebellion. He believed it produced more traitors than any where else since the days of Judas Iscariot. The bill was postponed till to-morrow.

Adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. BABBITT, of Pa., introduced a bill for the preservation and improvement of the harbor of Erie. Referred.

Mr. NOELL, of Mo., introduced a joint resolution to suspend, for 12 months, the collection of the National direct tax in Missouri. Referred.

Mr. WATTS, Delegate from New Mexico, introduced a bill providing a temporary government for Arizona. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. WATTS also introduced a bill providing for the examination of claims, owing to Indian depredations in New Mexico.

The House then resumed the consideration of the resolution offered on Friday by Mr. Wilson requesting the Committee on Military Affairs to report a bill providing an additional article of war for the government of the army, whereby officers in the military service of the United States shall be prohibited from using any portion of the forces under their respective commands for the purpose of returning fugitive slaves from service or labor, and to provide for the punishment of such officers as may violate the articles of war by dismissal from the service.

Mr. NOELL, of Missouri, moved to lay the resolution on the table.

The motion was lost.

The resolution was then adopted, yeas 67, nays not counted.

On motion of Mr. VANDEVER, of Iowa, the Committee on Territories was directed to inquire into the expediency of establishing temporal governments within the limits of the disloyal States or districts, and to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. MORRILL, of Vt., from the Committee on Ways and Means, asked leave to report a bill to increase the duties on tea, coffee and sugar. The bill proposes to make the duty on tea of all kinds 20 cents a pound; on coffee 5 cents per pound; and on sugar 2 1-2, 3, 5, and 8 cents a pound, according to quality. The bill also proposes to fix the duty on molasses at 6 cents a gallon. Mr. Morrill said this bill was simply in accordance with the recommendations of the Secretary of the Treasury. It was supposed the proposed increased duties would yield seven or eight millions of dollars, provided the same quantities of the articles should be imported as in 1860. The bill should be passed at once to secure the sugar crop immediately coming into the country, and the tea and coffee soon expected to arrive. The prices of these articles have already risen in anticipation of the passage of this bill so that the consumers pay just as much now as if the bill was already a law of the land. The Committee on Ways and Means intend bringing in a supplemental tariff for a further increase of the revenue when the general subject will come up.

Mr. VALLANDIGHAM, of Ohio, briefly opposed the bill.

The bill was subsequently passed by yeas 77, nays 29.

Mr. MOREHEAD'S resolution, instructing the Committee that any person or persons engaged or employed in the present rebellion be forever rendered incapable of holding any office or trust under the Constitution and laws of the United States, was adopted.

Numerous resolutions of inquiry were adopted, calling on the Secretary of War to furnish the House with information concerning the quantity of arms purchased since the 12th of April last, prices paid, &c.

Mr. FENTON, of New York, introduced a bill granting lands for a railroad from the Missouri river to San Francisco. Referred to the Special Committee.

Mr. KELLOGG, of Illinois, introduced a resolution that when the House adjourn to-day, the Senate concurring, it will be till the 2d of January. Adopted.

Mr. KELLOGG, understanding there was no quorum in the Senate to act on his former resolution, offered another, viz: That when the House adjourn to-day it be until Thursday next; that when it adjourns on that day it be until the following Monday; and then when it adjourns it be till the 3d of January. This resolution passed and the House adjourned.

Cotton Culture on the Prairies.

Historical Facts and Proofs.

Our recent publications of facts connected with the culture of cotton in this State have created much surprise among those to whom the entire subject was new. Many of our old residents looked upon it justly as but the revival of an old topic, a return to a source of agricultural wealth, well established in the past, and only abandoned because made less profitable by competition. All that is needed to prove the practicability of profitable and extensive culture of cotton in this State is a proper presentation of historical facts. The actual record will outweigh all theory on the subject.

The following statements in relation to Cotton growing in Southern Illinois, were furnished to the Illinois Central Railroad Company. An agent of the Company is now collecting information of a similar character farther south, and there seems to be conclusive evidence that we have Eight to Ten Millions of Acres of Lands, which will afford good merchantable Cotton, from 300 to 500 pounds to the acre. During the coming year, if Illinois cannot market her Corn crop, she must turn her attention to Cotton, Flax, Castor Beans, Sorghum, and other semi-tropical products.

JAMES L. LAMB, Esq., (Mather, Lamb & Co.)—Resident now of Springfield; formerly resided in Randolph county in 1823, 1824 and 1825. Was storekeeper; used to purchase cotton of the farmers, and shipped it from Kaskaskia to Pittsburgh by the Ohio—generally 200 to 300 bales during the year. There were several gins worked by horse-power in the county.

M. F. HACKETT—Lived in Sangamon county from 1829 to 1841. Many of my neighbors at that time raised cotton every year. Elihu Bowen's gin worked by horse-power; was generally resorted to to gin the cotton. I never heard of any trouble by frost—it was raised as easily as corn. I have often seen it raised for first crop on new prairie sod.

W. BUTLER, State Treasurer—Came to Illinois in 1824 with his father, who raised cotton annually for several years. Butler used to take the cotton to Bowen's gin, and names a dozen different neighbors who made cotton part of their annual planting until the low price of manufactured goods drove homespun out of the market. Elihu Bowen's gin was located on Rock Creek, sixteen miles west of Springfield.

In Fayette county, twelve miles from Vandalia, a cotton gin was in constant use between 1832 and 1836.

LIEUT. GOV. CASEY'S LETTER.

Z. CASEY emigrated to Jefferson county, Illinois, from Middle Tennessee, in the year 1817. "I had been in the habit of raising all the cotton the family used prior to coming to this State. For twelve years after I came to Illinois, to wit, from 1817 to 1829, we raised cotton every year sufficient for home consumption, and discontinued raising cotton there because cotton goods could be purchased cheaper in the stores than made at home. We used Tennessee cotton seed. Planted usually about the first of May, and picked out during the month of September. Usually we had no trouble from frost.

"I have no doubt but that cotton could be raised to advantage in all the south half of Illinois every year. "Z. CASEY.
"Mt. Vernon, Jefferson Co., Ill., Dec. 9, 1861."

SAMUEL HENRY, aged 67 years, came from Tennessee in 1819—post office, Nashville, Washington county; for six years raised cotton near Sparta, Randolph county, and three subsequent years raised it where he now lives. Gave up the culture because it imposed too much labor upon the women, and cotton yarn could be bought cheaper than they could raise it. Planted as soon as the ground was in condition—about the first of May. Very early frost would sometimes affect it. Thinks it can be raised here successfully.

LIVESAY CARTER, aged 62 years—post office, Nashville, Washington county—came from Tennessee in 1818; raised cotton six years; planted in May, and picked from first of September until November; used native seed; it sometimes was slightly affected by frost. Thinks cotton can be raised here as well as anywhere.

WM. D. MITCHELL, aged 45—post office, Ashley, Washington county—came from Tennessee in 1829; raised cotton for ten years; ceased to raise it because cotton goods could be bought cheaper; used native seed; planted as early as the ground was in condition to work, and had no trouble from frost; the yield was quite uniform.

JAMES MARTIN, aged 58—post office Osborn, Washington county, came from Tennessee in 1828, says for the first eight years raised cotton every year until cotton goods became cheaper. Used native seed—planted from first to tenth of May, and picked during the fall; don't think this will ever be a cotton country. Cannot tell the reason why—he acknowledged that it grew with him; the frost would nip it sometimes.

DAVID MCCLURKIN, aged 48 years, came from South Carolina in 1837. Says for first four years raised cotton successfully, until the women began to buy their cotton goods. Used native seed—had no trouble from frost. Think cotton can be grown here of as good a quality, and with a larger yield, than in South Carolina. Post office, Sparta, Randolph county.

ISAAC FORD, aged 38 years—post office, Osborn, Washington county, came from Missouri in 1855. Had raised cotton the past two years, 1860 and 1861—used native seed; planted 10th May and picked early in the fall. Had no trouble from frost. Thinks it can be raised as successfully and just as well as any other crop.

ZACHARIAH PARISH, aged 57—Post office Osborn, Washington county, came from Ohio in 1840—has raised cotton most every year since—used native seed, planted early in May and picked during the fall. Has raised on old and new land; does better on new land; had no trouble from frost.

MRS. WM. FINCH—Post office Mt. Vernon, Jefferson county, came from Indiana—raised cotton for about twenty years before 1845, until cotton goods became cheaper. Used Southern seed—planted as early as possible in May, and picked during the fall—had no trouble from frost—does better on new land. It is a sure and good crop, planted early in the spring on fresh turned sod, and requires no cultivation. Their average yield off of an acre and a quarter, after taking out the toll for ginning, was four hundred pounds—equal to a yield of over four hundred pounds to the acre.

APPOLLOS COOPER, aged 60—Came from Tennessee in 1860—Post office, De Soto, Jackson County, raised cotton this year, planted first of May, cut off by the army worm; replanted the last day of May, and it was as good cotton as he ever saw grown in Tennessee—yielded at the rate of from 1200 to 1500 pounds per acre of seed cotton.

BANISTER KRUSE, aged 46, native of Illinois—post office, De Soto, Jackson County, has raised cotton for the past twenty-three years, used native seed; planted in May and picked in September.

HARDEY KRUSE, aged 43—post office, De Soto, Jackson County, native of Illinois, has raised cotton for the past twenty years, used native seed; planted the first week in May and picked during September and October, had no trouble from frost.

JAMES KRUSE, aged 35—post office, De Soto, Jackson County, has raised cotton for the past eight years, used native seed; planted tenth of May picked in September, thinks it is a sure crop with proper cultivation.

ROBERT PUGH, as to the culture of cotton, near Pana, by his father Thomas Pugh. R. Pugh, age 46. Thomas Pugh is dead—his son, Robert Pugh, says, they came from Kentucky in 1819, for first six years raised cotton every year, did so until cotton goods were sold cheaper, used Kentucky seed. The only crop that failed was planted on newly cleared timber land, it grew too rank and remained green too long, and was considerably injured by frost; planted about the first of May and picked during the fall. Had no trouble from frost, but in the single instance above mentioned. Lives on Sec. 4, 11 N, 2 E, 3.

THOMAS WELLS, aged 84, P. O. DuQuoin, Perry county, came from South Carolina in 1805. Raised cotton for twenty-five years—until cotton became cheaper; used Kentucky seed; planted first of May and commenced picking the last of August; thinks it will grow and do well, unless the climate has changed very much.

MICHAEL TAYLOR, aged 52, P. O. DuQuoin, Perry county, native of Illinois. Raised cotton for ten years—until spun thread could be bought cheaper than it could be made. Planted from first to tenth of May, and picked in September, had no trouble from frost.

RICHARD R. TAYLOR, aged 63, came from South Carolina in 1803. Raised cotton for thirty years after 1820; used native seed—planted in May. Has raised as good cotton on Big Muddy as he ever saw raised in Tennessee. Thinks it grows best in the timber. P. O. DuQuoin, Perry county.

JOHN ROBINSON, aged 69, P. O. Elkville, Jackson county, came from Tennessee in 1805. Has raised cotton for about forty-five years past; used Tennessee seed, occasionally touched with frost, planted in May and picked in September and October. Thinks it will do well here.

THOMAS ROBINSON, aged 38, native of Illinois, has raised cotton ever since he was old enough to pick it, used native seed, planted as early in May as the ground would permit, and picked in September. Has yielded, with good culture, 800 lbs. to the half acre of seed cotton, equal to 200 lbs. clear cotton.

LOUIS WELLS, aged 80, came from South Carolina in 1810. Raised cotton for twenty years, until cotton goods could be bought cheaper; used native seed, planted in May and picked during the fall. He had no trouble from frost.

DANIEL DAY, is dead. His wife says they came from North Carolina in 1820, and raised cotton for fourteen years, gave up raising because they preferred buying their cotton goods. Used native seed, planted first of May, and picked during September—had no trouble from frost. P. O. DuQuoin, Perry county.

MRS. EDITH TAYLOR, aged 55, came from Kentucky in 1810. Has raised cotton, with occasional intermissions, up to this time. Used native seed, planted as soon as they could in the spring, and picked last of August and 1st of September—had no trouble from frost. Thinks it can be raised here if people will cultivate it. P. O. DuQuoin, Perry county.

ASHER JONES, aged 45, P. O. Du Quoin, Perry county, came from Tennessee in 1830; raised cotton eight years; discontinued because it was cheaper to buy cotton yarn; used native seed, planted early in May and picked in September; does not think it will succeed as a paying crop; fibre short and yield light.

ELIJAH WELLS, aged 76, P. O. Tamaroa, Perry county, came from South Carolina in 1810; raised cotton ten years; from 1833 to 1823, owned a cotton gin, and cleaned the seed out of the cotton for a large neighborhood around Du Quoin; is satisfied from experience with the culture of cotton, that it will do well in Southern Illinois.

MINYARD GILLAM, aged 62, P. O. Tamaroa, Perry county, came from Tennessee in 1819; raised cotton for thirty years—until the women thought the work was too hard, and that they could buy the cotton yarn cheaper; used native seed; planted about the first of May and picked in September and October; sometimes affected by frost; thinks it don't do as well as in Tennessee.

R. M. GALLOWAY, aged 53, P. O. Tamaroa, Perry county, came from Indiana in 1830; raised cotton for twenty years; used native seed; planted in May and picked in September; had no trouble from frost, thinks excellent cotton can be grown here.

MARY CURLEE, P. O. Tamaroa, Perry county, came from Tennessee in 1838, raised cotton two first years; gave it up because cotton goods could be bought cheaper, and they preferred sending their children to school to keeping them at home picking the seed out of cotton; used the early seed; planted early in September; had no trouble from frost; thinks it can be grown here successfully.

P. W. JONES, aged 46, P. O. St. Johns, Perry county, came from Tennessee in 1827; raised cotton for twenty-five years—until it got to be a useless thing to raise, used native seed; planted early in May and picked during the fall; thinks with a market for the sale of it, and gins in the country to prepare it, he could make more money raising cotton than either wheat or corn.

PETER HAGLER, aged 56, P. O. Du Quoin, Perry county, came from North Carolina in 1820; raised cotton for twenty years in Jackson and Perry counties—until cotton goods became so cheap it was unprofitable to raise it; used native seed; planted as near the first of May as possible, and picked from August to October; the frost would touch it occasionally, but not seriously.

THOMAS F. WHITE—aged 53, post office, Ashley, Washington county. Came from Georgia in 1814—raised Cotton for fifteen years, until the women preferred buying their cotton yarn. Used native seed, planted as soon as the ground was in good condition, about the first of May, and picked during the fall—the frost did not injure but in two or three years.

SAMUEL ANDERSON—aged 55, post office, Coloma, Washington county. Came from Alabama in 1828—raised cotton for ten years, until they felt able to buy their cotton yarn. Used native seed, planted about the first of May and picked from September to November—had no trouble from frost—does not think the lint is as good as it is in the South, but the crop will mature and do well here.

WILLIAM CORGAN—aged 55, post office Coloma, Washington county. Came from North Carolina in 1828—raised cotton for five years—gave it up because other crops were more profitable. Used native seed, planted about the first of May and picked in September and October; thinks the crop is shortened occasionally by frost.

JAMES COLTER, aged 50—post office Ashley, Washington county. Came from Tennessee in 1842—raised cotton four years—gave up raising it because cotton goods could be bought cheaper. Used native seed, planted about the first of May and picked in September and October. Cotton grows well, but does not open so well, and does not think the staple is so good as it is in Tennessee—had no serious trouble from frost.

JOEL WOODRUM, aged 70—post office Ashley, Washington county. Came from Tennessee in 1820—says he has raised cotton since 1830, and means to continue to raise it. Used native seed—thinks it can be raised here as good as can be raised in Tennessee—planted during the first week in May and commenced picking the last of August—had no trouble from frost.

ELISHA STIVERS, aged 34—post office Ashley, Washington county. Native of Illinois—has raised cotton ever since he can recollect until five years past—has no particular reason for ceasing its culture, except that it begun to be more trouble than profit—cotton goods could be bought so much cheaper. Used native seed, planted on or before the 10th of May and picked from the last of August until the crop was gathered—think it will grow successfully.

ALLEN POAGE, of Homer, Ill., aged 40 years, raised more or less cotton every year for the ten years previous to 1845, and always had a good crop.

His opinion is that the higher and more sandy the land, the better the crop, as a general rule; but some of the largest and best cotton he ever raised was in "new breaking."

When the land was well fitted for the crop, they used to plant it in drills, plants about ten or twelve inches apart, cultivated it with a horse, and used a hoe among it; did not trim or prune it, and met with good success every year. If he can procure the seed, will plant fifteen acres next season.

THE FIGHT AT MUNFORDSVILLE, KY.

Gallantry of Col. Willich's 32d Ind.

[Correspondence of the Cincinnati Gazette, 21st.]

About half-past 1 p. m., Tuesday, 17th, the camp (at Munfordsville, or Camp George Wood,) was startled by the sharp rattle of musketry, which seemed to come from the south bank of Green river. It was known that a part of Col. Willich's magnificent regiment, the 32d Indiana, was doing picket duty on that side, and the inference at once was that the lusty Germans had either attacked the enemy or been attacked by them—most likely the former. Gen. Johnson ordered the signal gun to sound, and for the first time our regiments formed in line of battle.

A messenger shortly came over with the intelligence that Willich's pickets had espied rebel soldiers in the woods beyond them, and immediately their lion-hearted Lieutenant-Colonel, Henry von Febra, had ordered two companies to advance, and, if possible, effect their dislodgment. The enemy retreated half a mile to his main body without firing a shot, and the two companies pursued him, stealthily advancing as skirmishers. Suddenly and unexpectedly a troop of rebel cavalrymen came dashing over the hill, and a careless volley from their shot guns told our boys that they were near falling into an ambuscade, and that the enemy was actually in their front in considerable force. But, nothing daunted, the brave Germans, veteran like, returned the volley with a galling fire, slowly retreating so as to bring the enemy out from the woods, and into a level, open field. The enemy, confident in his numbers, was not slow to accept the invitation. In the meantime the two companies being hard pressed, the bugle was sounded to bring up the remaining companies of the regiment. They came on right gallantly, part of them having to cross Green river, and fell in upon the right and left flank with as much apparent coolness as if this had been their hundredth battle instead of their first. Then followed an almost hand to hand conflict, lasting fully an hour. The enemy strove in vain to draw the Germans up the hill by feigned retreats, and a masked battery was so planted as to have swept our brave fellows fore and aft, had they for a moment permitted their valor to get the better of their discretion; but, knowing the fearful odds arrayed against them, they were content to hold their ground. Finally, when the enemy despaired of getting them into the ambush, they unmasked their battery and opened fire. The first ball passed between the Adjutant and Major of the regiment, who occupied positions not many feet apart. The belching cannon was the signal of another onset by the Texas cavalrymen, and right well did they perform the work. Captain Welschbellich, Company G, formed his men in hollow square and the cavalrymen charged their front, their right and their left, but they were as adamant; the square remained unbroken, while many of the Texans, equally brave, but less successful because they were the attacking party, bit the dust. The cavalrymen retired, discomfited, and then an entire regiment of rebel infantry darkened the hill and came marching down toward the brave men composing Company G, but a galling fire from our front and right scattered their forces and gave them something else to think of. Colonel Willich had been ordered on duty at headquarters, and consequently did not get to his regiment until the heat of the battle was over. The regiment was forced to fall back a short distance, not being able to make a stand against the artillery. The rebels did not pursue. They carried off their wounded, and then beat a hasty retreat. It is known that the rebel force consisted of Terry's regiment of cavalry, two regiments of infantry and three pieces of cannon. The rebels lost forty-nine killed. Their number of wounded is not known, but it is undoubtedly large.

The next morning they sent in a flag of truce, under which they are interring their dead. Willich's entire forces only numbered 414, including commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers and privates. This list shows 10 killed and 22 wounded.

Naval Engagement in Monrovia Harbor between Liberian and Spanish War Vessels.

The Monrovia (Liberia) correspondent of the Boston *Journal* writes that a naval engagement took place in that harbor, on the 11th, a Spanish war steamer being badly beaten in an attempt to revenge on the Liberian authorities. It seems that the Liberian schooner Quail overhauled and burned a Spanish slaver in Galinas river some months before. The Spanish Governor at Fernando Po became greatly enraged at hearing of it, and ordered a war steamer to proceed to Monrovia and either sink or capture the Quail. The correspondent relates:

On the morning of the 11th of September the flag of Fort Norris advertised a war steamer coming in the harbor. In a few minutes she dropped anchor immediately opposite the Quail, and at about two hundred yards distant from her. Capt. James L. Benedict immediately dispatched a boat from the Quail to ascertain the object of the stranger's visit. Lieut. Carney was ordered to ask the somewhat ticklish question. He boarded her as per order, and was politely and honorably received with the national flag of Spain flying. The captain of the steamer said he came to see the President, and would remain with us three days. He asked where he could best land. The only remark he used that seemed at all warlike was just as Lieut. Carney was walking up the steps of the steamer. The Spanish captain looked over into the Quail's boat and remarked, rather in a surprised tone, "Why, I see you are all ready," seeing the boat's crew all armed with Enfield rifles and cutlasses, to which remark Lieut. Carney replied, "Yes, men-of-war fashion, always ready." As soon as the Quail's boat left the steamer, the captain weighed anchor and steamed out to the windward about three miles, then turned in again, making a circuit of about six miles, and run in nearly as near the Quail as before; he run close alongside the American bark Edward, of New York, saying to the mate of the bark that he was going to give the Quail a broadside, and sink or take her with him. The port holes were thrown open, and under the shelter of the bark and *the United States flag* the first gun was fired. The Quail returned the shot immediately, and fired again before the steamer had time to reload her big gun. The first shot from the Quail passed over the midships of the steamer. The first shot of the steamer was grape, and did little or no damage to the Quail. The second shot of the Quail was well aimed, and struck the steamer, passing through her bulwarks. The second shot from the steamer missed entirely. The third shot from the Quail was fired from the 18-pounder, and struck and passed in at the stern. When the last shot struck the steamer, all the men left her big gun aft and ran forward as if they were running for life. Even the man at the wheel left. Fort Norris by this time opened fire on the steamer, and a shower of balls was falling all around her. Some passed over; some fell a little short; all however were of a somewhat convincing nature, and the steamer struck a bee-line for sea, and has not been seen since, without taking or sinking, or even doing more than ten dollars damage to the Quail.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

MONETARY.

MONDAY EVENING, Dec. 23, 1861.

The week opens with more than usual dullness. The threatening character of the news published by us this morning had a chilling effect, and operators and banks alike seemed determined to move cautiously. The demand for discounts was not pressing, and what paper was taken was scrutinized very closely, and more than ordinary care in the kind of collaterals was observed. The ability of bankers is much beyond the present wants of customers, or their disposition to loan were the paper offered. They are all determined, under existing prospects, to occupy a strong position.

The demand for N. Y. Exchange was comparatively light. Most of the leading banks supplied customers freely at ¼ ⅌ cent. premium. Outsiders were charged ⅜, and this was the rate of a few leading banks and all the bankers. The buying price was par@⅛; some of the smaller houses perhaps paid ¼. The supply is fully equal to the demand.

GOLD—The demand for gold is falling off somewhat. The leading banks charge customers ⅜@½; the brokers charge 1@1¼; though most sales to-day are made at the lower figure.

CANADA BANKS.—From a comparison of the Bank statement dated the 12th inst., with the return of last month up to the 14th ultimo, it appears that the circulation has decreased by $203,129; the deposits increased by $361,884; the reserve of coin has also increased by $311,038. The discounts are less by $392,868. The total of liabilities in all the banks are $33,192,797 this month, against $30,187,967 last month, and the total assets $63,490,993 this month, against $62,268,286 last month.

CINCINNATI.—The *Gazette* of Monday says:

Saturday the money market did not exhibit any new feature. The demand for loans continued on a moderate scale, and good paper was taken freely at 10@12 per cent—the inside the prevailing figure for first class names. The dealings in exchange were light on both sides, receipts and sales being below an average. Rates remained at par buying, and ⅛ premium selling, the market closing steady. Gold ranged from ½ to 1c premium and orders were mostly filled at the latter figure. There was not much stir in the market.

ST. LOUIS.—The *Democrat* of Saturday says:

But a very small business has been done in the money market this week, and rates close about as they opened on Monday. There was a slight stir in financial circles over the news from Europe, Monday and Tuesday. But after a few had bled to the tune of 2½ and 3 per cent., they found to their chagrin that they had been sold—that war with England was not half as near as Christmas, and that a dollar in gold would buy but a mere fraction more than a dollar in Missouri currency, and so more than Treasury notes. So the panic bubble collapsed. Towards the last of the week the demand for gold ceased, and prices settled down to old rates—5½ to 5 per cent. premium for Missouri currency, and ¾ to 1 per cent. above Treasury notes. Exchange was steady, at 5 per cent. premium the week through, but the demand was not large, with a good supply.

The demand for Treasury notes has been brisk nearly the entire week, mostly by pork packers, who send them into the country in place of coin, and they are found to answer a much better purpose for circulation than large gold. The Missouri solvent banks have held up their notes admirably under all the existing circumstances which have recently disturbed the money market, and confidence in their good intentions has been greatly strengthened of late.

MILWAUKEE.—The *Sentinel* of Monday says:

The changes in the money market last week were few and unimportant. Exchange was plenty throughout the week at 1 ⅌ cent. premium, but the demand was less than during the previous week, and we heard of no instance in which more than 1 ⅌ cent. was paid. Indeed most of the banks sold to all applicants at that figure, and hence there was no chance for the brokers to charge more. The calls for redemption were but trifling in the aggregate, for the reason that there is comparatively little currency in circulation. Money to borrow was exceedingly scarce, owing to the determination of the banks to discount only such paper as they can draw against at maturity to furnish exchange. The requirements of the new banking law make this course unavoidable. Our currency now represents specie, and consequently the banks have to manage their affairs on that basis.

COMMERCIAL.

MONDAY EVENING, Dec. 23, 1861.

The *Arago*, with Liverpool dates to the 12th inst. was telegraphed yesterday evening. Breadstuffs generally were dull and lower. Wheat had declined 2d per cental; corn, 1s@1s 6d per quarter; and flour, 6d@1s per bbl. Provisions were firm.

The warlike position assumed by England, in making such extensive preparations, had quite a depressing effect on the general markets to-day, especially breadstuffs. In provisions there was a firm feeling, induced mainly by the activity among packers to hurry forward meats and other products for the English market.

The receipts of Hogs since Saturday amounted to only 3,771 live and 136 dressed. The market for Live Hogs yesterday and to-day was brisk and buoyant, and we note a further advance in prices of 5@10c ⅌ 100 lbs. In prices there was a wide range—$2.25@2.74 gross; but the bulk of the transactions were at $2.40@2.50 for bacon hogs, and $2.50@2.65 for medium to heavy hogs. All sold above $2.65 were extra choice.

In dressed hogs, owing to light receipts, there was but little done, with retail sales at $3@3.10.

In provisions there was a firm feeling. Mess Pork was in good demand on Canadian account, and 550 brls were sold at $9.37½; but holders generally were asking $9.50. English Middles are in good demand, but the offerings are light. Green Meats were steady with sales at 3c for Hams, and 1¾c for Shoulders. Lard is in good demand and firm, with sales of steam rendered at 6½@7c, and No. 1 Lard at 6¼c. A lot of 100 tcs prime Yellow Grease was sold at 4¾c.

Owing to an advance in railroad freights, the Flour market was very dull and neglected—the sales being very trifling, at $3.60@3.65 for fair Spring extras. Wheat declined 1@1½c ⅌ bushel, with light transactions at 68½@69c for No 1 Spring, and 63@63½c for No 2 Spring. There is nothing doing in Winter Wheat. The demand for Corn was very light, and the market declined ½c, with trifling sales at 22c. Oats were sold at 18¼@18½c. Rye was quiet at 30@30½c. Barley was firm. Seeds quiet. Highwines firm, with sales at 13¼c.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK MARKET.

FOR WEEK ENDING DEC. 23, 1861.

MONDAY EVENING, Dec. 23, 1861.

The receipts of Cattle and Hogs during the past week compare as follows:

	Hogs. No.	Beef Cattle No.
Week ending Dec. 23	38,085	2,932
" " Dec. 16	38,615	1,948
" " Dec. 9	43,898	2,371
" " Dec. 2	30,107	2,731

BEEF CATTLE.—As will be seen from the above table of receipts, the advance which took place a week ago has had the effect to increase our supply this week about 1,000 head. Under this state of affairs the market opened rather tame—shippers being cautious, and packers showing less disposition to push the market. On Saturday afternoon, however, there was a good demand by Government contractors; and packers, who had been holding back in the hopes of a decline, seeing the best lots slipping through their fingers, "pitched right in," and from that to the close the market ruled firm and brisk. The range of prices paid for fair to prime Cattle was $2.35@3.15; but the bulk of the sales were for good tierce beef Cattle at $2.50@2.75. Thin Cattle were dull and neglected, with sales at $1.87½@2.00, and for medium, $2.25.

The transactions at Sherman's Yards on Saturday and Sunday were heavy. Messrs. Cragin & Co. purchased some 800 head at $2.50@3.00, for making extra navy mess beef. Mr. John Hughes also purchased several hundred head for Mr. Millward to make India Mess, at $2.50@2.70. Messrs. Morris, Reinneman & Weixal, dealers, purchased the following lots: 31 head of very good Illinois steers from Mr Arnold, at $2.75; 30 head of prime Missouri steers from Mr. Moss, at $2.75; 7 head of good Illinois beeves, from Curtis, at $2.60; 98 head of good Southern Illinois steers, from Mr. Henry, at $2.50; 18 head of Illinois steers from Mr. Cheeseboro', at $2.50; 75 head of prime Iowa Steers, av. 1325 lbs at $2.70. They also sold about 350 head to Government contractors and city packers at $2.50@2.75.

At the Southern yards several prime lots of Illinois and Missouri steers were sold at $3.00, and good packing cattle at $2.50@2.60.

At the Pittsburgh yards there were but few cattle sold. On Saturday a choice lot of steers, averaging upwards of 1400 lbs, was sold at $3.15, and some medium lots at $2.25.

The sales of Beeves at the various yards on Saturday, Sunday, and to-day, were as follows:

AT SHERMAN'S YARDS.

Beeves.	Av'g.	Price.	Beeves.	Av'g.	Price.
45	1430	$3.00	65	1158	2.60
18	1240	3.00	56	1390	2.60
16	1210	2.80	98	1239	2.50
30	1140	2.75	18	1160	2.50
31	1335	2.75	16	1111	2.50
30	1376	2.75	70	1307	2.50
238	1195	2.70	18	1099	2.47½
43	1362	2.70	27	1048	2.35
75	1335	2.70	37	1030	2.35
62	1390	2.65	18	1032	2.25
27	1400	2.65	15	1230	2.35
116	1205	2.65	31	1116	2.35
42	1230	2.61¼	58	1062	2.35
33	1198	2.62½	31	1076	2.30
138	1190	2.60	16	1030	2.00
126	1092	2.60	8	1027	1.87½

20 averaging 1241 at $33 per head.

AT MICHIGAN SOUTHERN YARDS.

Beeves.	Av'g.	Price.	Beeves.	Av'g.	Price.
18	1380	3.00	53	1176	2.50
25	1400	3.00	94	1265	2.50
33	1199	2.63½	29	1047	2.35
33	1163	2.60	20	1046	2.35
19	1154	2.55	15	[illegible]	[illegible]

AT PITTSBURGH YARDS.

Beeves.	Av'g.	Price.	Beeves.	Av'g.	Price.
20	1447	3.15	9	[illegible]	[illegible]
24	1130	2.95	10	[illegible]	[illegible]

At the close good cattle were scarce and firm; but scallawags were very dull. The Yards were entirely cleared of desirable qualities.

HOGS—In the early part of the week the market suffered very seriously, in consequence of the warlike aspect of the news from Europe, and good Hogs were sold as low as $2.15 gross. During the past few days, however, renewed confidence has taken place, and prices have rallied.

Yesterday and to-day there was a very active demand both by packers and shippers, and prices advanced 5@10c. The sales at the various yards were as follows:

Hogs.	Weight.	Price.	Hogs.	Weight.	Price.
217	av 310 lbs	$2.74	143	av 290 lbs	$2.56
260	336	2.72½	1091	254	2.55
264	315	2.70	307	281	2.52½
379	317	2.65	1345	289	2.50
104	275	2.64	66	274	2.47½
1300	310	2.60	300	240	2.45
45	302	2.58½	1366	266	2.40
344	276	2.57½	180	215	2.35

SHEEP—There is very little doing in Sheep, and the market is quiet, with light sales at $1.50@3.50 ⅌ 100 lbs.

Grain Vessels on the Ocean.

Capt. E. Latham, Surveyor of vessels loading grain at New York, in the employ of the Board of Underwriters, made his annual report a few days since, showing that he had surveyed 1,435 vessels during the past year, of which only two had been lost.

CHICAGO DAILY MARKET…

MONDAY EVENING, De…

PROVISIONS—Mess Pork is in active … and firm. Sale 250 brls city packed at … Green Meats steady. Sales 3,800 pcs Ham… delivered; 1,600 pcs Shoulders at 1¾c. Bulk … dull. Sales 25 hhds dry salted Hams at 3¼c p… Lard firm. Sales 25 tcs prime steam-re… Leaf at 7c; 50 tcs do at 6¾c; 50 tcs No 1 L… 6¼c; 100 tcs prime Yellow Grease at 4¾c.

FLOUR—Received, 674 brls. Owing to … vance in railroad freights, the market is ver… Sales 167 brls "Wallace Mills" spring ex… $3.65; 200 brls fair extra at $3.60.

WHEAT—Received, 43,385 bu. Market d… 1@1½c lower. Sales 15,000 bu No. 1 Spr… store at 69c; 2000 bu do at 68¾c; 14,000 bu… 68½c; 12,000 bu No 2 Spring in store at 63½c… do at 63¼c; 15,000 bu do at 63c; 700 bu R… Spring in store at 51c; 300 bu do at 51½c.

CORN—Received 17,115 bu. Market dull a… lower. Sales 10,000 bu Mixed in store at 22c…

OATS—Received 5,920 bu. Market quiet. … 500 bu No 1 in store at 18½c; 500 bu do at 18…

RYE—Received, 1784 bu. Market quiet. … 2400 bu No 1 in store at 30c; 700 bu do at 30…

BARLEY—Received, 4,080 bu. Market … Sales, 400 bu No 2 in store at 20c; 400 bu … ple at 28c del.

MALT—200 bushels at 50c.

HIGHWINES—Market firmer. Sales, 25 … 13¼c.

TALLOW—Dull and nominal at 7@7¼c.

HIDES—Quiet. We quote: Dry Flint, 10½… Green salted, 5@5½c.

BEANS—25 bags common at 75c.

EGGS—Fresh, 13@14c per doz.

POULTRY—Dressed Chickens in good re… at $1.75@2.00 per doz; Turkeys, brisk at 7… per lb; Geese, 25@30c each.

BUTTER—20 pkgs prime at 9½c; 48 pkgs … good at 8@9c.

POTATOES—Sound, 45@50c per bushel.

COOPERAGE—700 Pork Barrels at $1.20 d…

Weekly Report of the N. Y. C… Market.

[From the N. Y. Tribune, 19th.]

TUESDAY, Dec. 17.—We find a less numb… bullocks but a greater weight of beef in m… this week than last. The number already rep… is 3,655, which is about 350 head less than the… at the yards in Forty-fourth street by last re… and the number of large bullocks for "Chris… beef" greater than any week lately.

Owing to the excitement naturally atte… such an exhibition of fat bullocks open to the… lic, the market place has worn an unusually … appearance, but, upon the whole, we canno… that business is any better for the drover th… was a week ago, and in reality not quite as … because the butchers, as a general thing … getting animals of better quality at … same rates—that is 8 to 9 cents a p… net for the first-class stock, 7 to 8 … for medium, and six to seven cents for infe… though some very inferior ones will sell still … er, because the great demand is for "some… nice for the holidays;" and this demand will … all first-class stock to sell a little more ste… than it has in past two weeks; but if at a hi… rate, it will as a general thing be worth th… vance in improved quality. Some of the … bullocks which sell at fancy prices—that is at … 13 cents, net, a pound—are worth as much as … thing ever sold in this market.

CLOSE OF THE MARKET.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 18.—For the first time, … some of the present race of drovers have … coming to this market, we have a closing day … ter than the opening. With the exception of … fresh lots, there are very few cattle for sale, … what are here to-day will realize on an average … the middling grades of stock, $3@4 a head … than they would yesterday. And the last … yesterday of all the common sort of stock … better than the morning sales. The morning t… was slow; the butchers were all engrossed … the great show of prize bullocks—the grea… ever seen in this market—until afternoon, … then they went to work with a will, and bo… more cattle in two hours than we ever saw ch… hands in so short a time before.

SHEEP.—We have the satisfaction of repor… a very decided improvement in the sheep ma… this week, as compared with our last report. … think the average advance is fully equal to 1c … net, and if counted upon the sales of Mon… which was an unusually lively market day, … average advance would be still higher, for we … tice lots of sheep that sold that day at $3.75@… ⅌ head, which would now have sold for more … $4 or $4.25. On Tuesday the trade was not q… so lively; buyers, however, contended that … brokers were asking prices fully equal to the … previous.

HOGS—The supply continues to increase, hav… exceeded the very large number of last week … head; and at the same time the receipts of Dre… Hogs by all the railroads, and boats on the Huds… the East River, and from New Jersey, have b… very large—enough, we presume, to make up … total, live and dead, to 45,000 for the week; … with this enormous stock on sale, the price … improved, and there is a better prospect to-da… clearing the yards than we have seen at any t… the past month.

HOGS AND PROVISIONS.

[From the Alton (Ill.) Telegraph, 21st.]

HOG PRICES.—We note the downward tende… of hogs in several ways, but more especially … prices, which we regret. The highest price offe… in Alton to-day was $2.65, and the market … dull at these figures. There are a great m… droves reported on the road for this city.

[From the Detroit Tribune, 21st.]

DRESSED HOGS.—A decline of full 25c has ta… place since yesterday. Packers will not pay m… than $3.00@3.12½, the latter for the very b… Butchers, in small lots, are paying $3.25@3.40, … nothing more than $3.12½ can be relied on.

[From the Quincy (Ill.) Whig, 21st.]

We visited three of our packing houses yes… day, and learn that there has been an aggregate … about 6,700 hogs cut and put up in this city si… the commencement of the season, notwithstand… ing the unfavorable weather for packing, and … depressed state of the hog market, divid… among the several houses as follows: C. M. Po… roy & Co., 3,000; J. M. Rawlins & Co., 2,500; … Wells, 1,200. Most of these hogs have been brou… from Missouri, and in quality are fully equal … any brought to this market. Yesterday morn… buyers were offering but $2.50@2.60 per 100 lbs, … viding on 200, a depression of 15 to 25 cents on … ruling prices for the week just closed, caused … the warm weather. A cooler condition of the … mosphere last evening, rendering it more favo… ble for packers, may change the market to high… figures; but from present appearances far… will not be able to realize, at the best, more th… $2.75 or $3.00, net, for their hogs.

[From the Tazewell (Ill.) Republican, 21st.]

HOG CHOLERA.—We are informed that the h… cholera is raging to a fearful extent in the easte… part of the county, and that many farmers ha… lost their entire stock of hogs. The only preve… tative for this fearful disease that we know of, … to take the bodies of the dead hogs and bu… them in a heap, and then feed to the survivi… once the charred carcases.

[From the Cincinnati Gazette, 23d.]

Hogs advanced 10c. This was brought about … a combination of causes—excellent weather, lig… receipts, and a better feeling regarding foreign … fairs. Prices ranged from $3 to 3.25. The latt… however, was an extreme quotation. Mess po… advanced to $9.25 for first-class city brands. Ab… 1,300 brls sold at $9 to $9.25. Green meats w… in good demand at 2@2¼c for shoulders, 3¼c … hams, and 3¼c for sides. Lard active at 7@7… for tierces and barrels—holders mostly firm … 7½c.

[From the St. Louis Democrat, 21st.]

The all-absorbing theme in circles of trade no… a-days is pork and Christmas—Western pay da… The fore part of the week was very unfavorab… for packing, being too warm, but for the last thr… days a chilling change has come over the dream … of the weather, and hogs in great numbers have … suffer the extreme penalty of the law—death. Pr… ces declined since Monday, and quotations belo… will be found a true reflex of the market. Drove… were holding off for higher prices, but packe… were backward about coming to higher notions … present, and consequently the number bought to… day was a mere nothing. The first of next wee… will find all our packers busy without doubt, an… paying as high prices as can be paid anywhere i… the west. Only about 800 head were bought up t… 12 o'clock M. to-day, at $2.80 in coin to $3.10 i… Missouri currency. The latter price was paid o… ly for a small lot and $3.00 in Missouri paper … about the heighth of the market. Packers wer… very busy in disposing of former purchases, an… clearing their pens for a fresh start next week… The receipts since yesterday were about 4,0… head. Weather very fine for slaughtering.

New York Tallow and Lard Market…

[From the Circular of H. M'Connis, Broker, 18th.]

TALLOW—The prices for tallow have fluctuate… since the 10th inst. A steady demand for export, … modified by the circumstances of freight and ex… change, has tended to sustain prices, and favorite … brands have brought the extreme quotations given … below. The telegraph advices per Europa and … City of Washington have had but little effect o… the views of either buyers or sellers.

The sales are 350 hhds prime city rendered and … Butchers' Association, 9¾@9⅞ and 10c respectively. The market closes firm. Country Tallow—The receipts are not so large this week—1,000 packages in all from the 10th to the 16th inst. inclusive—with the exception of lots sold to arrive, the quality was not suitable for export. The sales reach about 150,000 lbs. of which a large proportion was taken for repacking in hhds. In tallow oil there is no change in prices. Of western grease, about 30,000 lbs in brls and tcs were sold at 7¼c.

LARD—Throughout the early part of the week, had a downward tendency. The effect of the advices noticed above has been to steady prices. The receipts continue to increase, most of which, however, will go to cover previous contracts, and the quantity for sale so far is barely equal to the demand. The sales reported are 5,000 pkgs principally of strictly prime quality at 9¼@9⅞c.

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE.—We shall never tire of praising D. B. De Land & Co.'s Chemical Saleratus. We hail its advent with joy as we have long been out of patience with the inferior stuff that has spoilt our bread, biscuit, cakes, &c. D. B. De Land & Co. ought to draw a pension for introducing this wholesome article before the world. It is now for sale by most dealers in the country.

MARRIED.

On Thursday, Dec. 19th inst., at Christ's Church in this city, by Rev. C. E. Cheney, Rector, CHARLES H. REED, Esq., (of Knox, Eustace & Reed), and ELLEN E., daughter of J. J. Beardsley, Esq.

At Elgin, Ill., on Monday, the 9th inst., by Rev. J. H. Waterbury, HENRY B. HORTON, of Clinton, Iowa, and Miss AMANDA J. WEBSTER, of the former place.

On the 17th inst., at London, Canada, aged 21 years, FRANCES MARY PORTAL, wife of Chas. Hutchinson, Barrister, and daughter of W. W. Street, Esq., M. C. R. R. Co., Chicago.

On the 23d instant, at St. Mary's Church, by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Duggan, HUGH O. HIGGINS and CLEMENTINA NAPIER both of this city.

DIED.

In this city, December 23d, of Diptheria, Mrs. MARY E. DAVIS, aged twenty-three years.

Saturday, at 9½ P. M., of Diptheria, LAURA MAY, infant daughter of Harriet E. and C. H. Van der Cook, aged 9 months.

Funeral will take place at their residence, Wabash avenue, this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Friends of the family are invited to attend.

In this city, Dec. 23d, 1861, TRUMAN FRANKLIN, twin child of Ella P. and Henry H. Butler, aged 11 months and 25 days.

SANTA CLAUS HAS ARRIVED.

TOYS, all kinds.
WORK BOXES, every style.
DOLLS, from 10 cts. to $25.
OPERA GLASSES in endless variety.
SHOPPING BAGS,
The largest assortment in the United States.
GAMES, TEA SETS,
And a million of other different articles for sale at
Peugeot's Great Variety Store
No. 108 LAKE STREET.

SHERIFF'S SALE.—By virtue of a special writ of Execution, issued from the Circuit Court of Cook County, … [illegible]

A. C. HESING, Sheriff of Cook County.
… Deputy.
Dated the 18th day of December, 1861.

The Tribune.

[THUR]SDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1861.

A National Horse Fair.

[A mov]ement has been inaugurated and [is meetin]g with universal encouragement, to [hold] a National Horse Fair in this city, to [comme]nce on the 2d of September, 1862, and [continu]e for a fortnight. The entry list will [be] confined to no special locality, but will be [open] to any one in this country or elsewhere, [des]iring to enter specimens of horse flesh. The location will probably be in the vicinity of the Bull's Head.

In order to induce a large representation of the fastest horses and best stock, most liberal premiums have been offered, amounting in the total to $25,000. Several $1,000 purses will be offered for the best running and trotting—four mile, three mile and two mile running races. Female equestrianism will be one of the principal features of the Fair. In every respect it is proposed to make this a first class show, and one which under ordinarily favorable circumstances must be a success surpassing any other Fair of the same character ever held here. The character of the executive officers and committees from the various States, should be a sufficient guaranty that the entertainment will be a *bona fide* enterprise. The liberal total of premiums offered cannot but attract representatives from the best trotting stock in the country.

At a meeting held at the City Railway office yesterday, the following officers and executive committees were appointed:

President—Hon. Francis C. Sherman, Chicago.
Vice President—George Walker, New York.
Secretary—W. P. Isham, Chicago.
Grand Marshal—J. M. Cannon, Muscatine, Iowa. DEPUTIES—E. Waterman, Ottawa, Ill.; N. P. Iglehart, Chicago; Ensign Bennett, Janesville, Wis.; Geo. A. Gage, Chicago; J. B. Crippen, Coldwater, Mich.; Jacob Egbert, Lebanon, Ohio.
Equestrian Marshal—Col. Dickey, Marshall, Mich. DEPUTIES—Geo. Singleton, Ill.; Harry Gould, St. Louis; Dr. A. Pitney, Chicago.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Illinois—D. A. Gage, Samuel Buckmaster.
Michigan—Charles E. Stuart, Kalamazoo; Eber Adams, Adrian.
Wisconsin—R. V. Robbins, Madison; Gen. Utley, Racine.
Indiana—J. A. Bridgeman, Richmond; C. W. Hall, Indianapolis.
Ohio—George Crane, Cincinnati; Danl. Rhodes, Cleveland.
Missouri—Thomas A. January, St. Louis; Col. White, St. Louis.
Iowa—L. B. Scheuck, Muscatine; — Brewster, Davenport.
New York—James Marvin, Saratoga; Joseph Hall, Rochester; Col. Thorne, Poughkeepsie.
Kentucky—A. Buford, Versailles; R. A. Alexander, Lexington.
Vermont—H. H. Baxter, Burlington; David Hill, Sudbury.
Massachusetts—Col. Adams, Roxbury; Chester W. Chapin, Springfield.
Connecticut—James Joslin, New Haven; James B. Whaples, Berlin.
New Hampshire—S. W. Dearborn, Exeter; Judge Davis, Cornish.
Pennsylvania—E. K. Conklin, Philadelphia; William McDonald.
Maine—— Farrar, Portland—Delano Canton.
New Jersey—George M. Patchen Bordentown.
California—Albert Card, San Francisco.
Treasurer of Entry Department—E. L. Nott, Chicago.

Camp Douglas.

Affairs at Camp Douglas have quieted and the excitement created by the Mechanic Fusileers' imbroglio and the disturbances in other regiments has subsided to a large extent. There is still, however, an active determination on the part of many connected with the former regiment, to remove Col. Wilson, a determination not without some well defined prospects of accomplishment. A delegation, we understand, have had an interview with Gov. Yates, and placed before him all the facts in controversy between the regiment and Col. Wilson. The understanding was that Col. Wilson shall be removed from his command, which shall be given to Arthur C. Ducat, now Major in Col. McArthur's regiment, and that Gov. Yates will induce the Government to turn the regiment over to the State of Illinois, and that it will be employed in engineer and mechanical duty. To thwart this scheme, Col. Wilson has gone to Washington.

The men composing the regiment are thoroughly determined in their position, and emphatically declare that they have been deceived and will not be mustered in as infantry of the state of Illinois; and thus the matter stands. The men, however, are fair, candid, loyal, intelligent soldiers, who appreciate their rights and are determined to maintain them in a proper manner.

Adjutant General Fuller is still busy in the work of re-organizing and consolidating the skeleton regiments. All cavalry and artillery companies attached to regiments are to be detached and formed into batteries and cavalry regiments. Sickness in camp, we are glad to learn, is disappearing, and there are now comparatively few cases of measles in the hospital.

Bell's Cavalry regiment now numbers about five hundred men, and the Irish Brigade have two hundred in barracks. The other regiments are doing well and all anxiously awaiting marching orders, which we hope will be received ere long.

A CHICAGO CONSUL ABROAD.—The Bristol *Daily Post*, an English journal, of a late date, thus announces the arrival of Z. Eastman, Esq., of this city, recently appointed to the consulate at Bristol:

"Mr. Z. Eastman, of Chicago, the newly appointed United States Consul to this port, has arrived in Bristol, and in the course of a few days will assume the duties which have hitherto been so efficiently discharged by Colonel Ward. Mr. Eastman comes amongst us under auspices which augur well for his future popularity. Not only is he a gentleman of great intelligence and high moral principle, but his views are eminently those of progression, and he has, moreover, an abhorrence of that dark spot on the escutcheon of his country, the abominable system of slavery.

"Another matter which will doubtless commend Mr. Eastman to the respect of our citizens is the fact that he has powerful English sympathies, and is animated by a desire to cement the strongest feelings of friendship between the new and the old countries. A colaborer with that great and good man, Elihu Burritt, in his efforts to spread abroad a spirit of 'universal brotherhood,' he was appointed as one of the delegates to the memorable conference at Frankfort. Subsequently he visited England, and was the guest of Joseph Sturge, and formed a friendship with many of our most esteemed philanthropists. With reference to the unhappy struggle now going on in his country, Mr. Eastman has the fullest confidence in the ultimate success of the Federal Government. He is, moreover, strong in his belief that the slave system is doomed, and that the event will be over-ruled by Providence to the good of the world at large."

PARAGRAPHS OF ALL SORTS.

One Andrew McLeod, having made one set of recruits answer for the obtaining of bounties from two regiments, in Detroit, is under arrest, and one of the officers wronged seeks redress in the civil courts while the other wants him tried by court martial. The city police justice has charge of the prisoners, and there was an attempt to snatch him from before the judge, the other day, by a corporal's posse.

—Since the 5th of August last the State of New York has furnished to the volunteer soldiers 111,800 overcoats, 131,300 jackets, and 143,800 pairs of pants, at a cost equal to $2,-145,000.

—Now that New York has the rare promise of an honest and capable Mayor, in the person of George Opdyke, it is suggested that the Legislature should abolish the dozen independent "commissions" that have been created from time to time to curtail and check the power of Mayor Wood. The commissions have indeed abbreviated to almost nothing the power of the out-going Mayor, but they have also had the effect to increase his popularity as a "persecuted victim." Moreover, the taxes have not been reduced, nor has corruption been less. The New Yorkers, therefore, desire now to try Mayor Opdyke with full power, and they think the machinery of Government will not only be simplified, but made less expensive and more honest.

—The Sixth Ohio regiment, Col. Bosley, familiarly known as the "Guthrie Grays," have been sent to Cairo. They were all summer in Western Virginia.

—The Thirty-ninth Ohio regiment, Colonel John Groesbeck, in Western Missouri, has not been all together in one place, or under one command, since when they entered the State in September.

—The Supreme Court at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has refused to enjoin the Pennsylvania Central from consummating its lease of the Philadelphia & Erie.

—There are now 6,805 troops at Camp Dennison, near Cincinnati, embraced in three regiments of infantry, (48th, 52d and 54th,) two regiments of cavalry, (2d and 5th,) and two batteries of artillery.

—The counties of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana nearest to Ship Island, contained, in 1860, 160,450 whites and 59,883 blacks; and their product was 3,154 bales of cotton and 2,960,925 pounds of rice.

—The Secessionists, it is stated, have taken possession of Justice Catron's property around Nashville, amounting to $60,000.

—The rifled artillery practice is daily continued at the navy yard, under the direction of Lieut. Parker. The gunners have acquired great proficiency. Experiments are also being made with an apparatus for the ejection of "liquid fire." At a recent trial, a steady stream of burning fluid was projected fifty yards from a force pump contrived for the purpose. The locality where the experiment was made was covered with a perfect sheet of flame.

Strength of the English Navy—Her Iron Clad Vessels and Gunboats.

The present aspect of foreign affairs has led the public to inquire as to the relative strength of the various navies of the great Powers, but more especially that of England. For years England has boasted of her walls of oak, and has counted her vessels by hundreds. And for several years past there has not been a day in the history of her naval ship yards that the sound of the carpenter's hammer has not been heard while engaged in adding more strength to her vast naval resources.

Every new improvement worthy of notice has been tested by competent and unbiased officers and only the good material used. Ship after ship has been added to the list until the names of nearly seven hundred vessels of all classes are to be found on the official Navy Register. Old vessels have been remodeled, auxiliary power placed in them, their armaments increased in number and efficiency, until at the present time England can boast of the largest and best navy of the world. The French, however, are not far behind. The Imperial navy of late has been very largely augmented. The French people have also become quite reticent in relation to any branch of their naval service. On the other hand England parades every gun boat, through the medium of the press, to the world.

During the Crimean war it was found that the old style of frigates and sloops of war were inadequate for the service required of them, and consequently another class of vessels, known as gunboats, were recommended, and, before the war closed, about one hundred and fifty of them had been built. This class of vessel was found to be one of the most useful, and their success formed a new era in shipbuilding in the British navy. At the present time England has nearly two hundred of these little vessels, carrying from four to eight guns of a heavy calibre. Not only has the number of vessels been augmented, but naval science has made such rapid strides since 1859 that the frigate of that date is by far inferior to the one of 1861.

Scarcely a month has passed since that date, but England has laid the keel of a war vessel, with a view to test some new principle of naval science. And this seemingly unwonted activity owes its impetus to the action of the French Emperor, who had begun to realize the vast importance of a navy able in every respect to cope with those of other nations, and consequently, in many instances, the keels of two French vessels were laid to one English. England, in her wisdom and fear of being excelled in numerical strength, worked with unrelaxing energy to keep, if possible, far ahead of her competitor.

This energy on the part of the English has more than once been the subject of remark in this country as well as in Europe. It is not long since that official statistics were called for in the British Parliament. It was shown that the British navy was manned by 84,000 sailors, and that the French fleet was manned by 30,000 sailors. The former had 356 captains and 17,000 lieutenants in commission, while the latter had only 257 captains in commission.

The latest mania in foreign naval construction has been for iron clad vessels. La Gloire (French) was the first of the kind launched. No sooner did the news of the construction of this vessel reach "my lords" than they voted $12,500,000 to build five iron clad vessels of 6,000 tons each. This one fact is illustrative of England's desire to outstrip her neighbor. Two of these vessels, the Warrior and the Black Prince, have been launched, and, by builders, are considered infinitely superior to La Gloire. The English built two semi-clad war vessels, some time since, the Defence and Resistance.

The three remaining iron clad vessels for the British navy will be launched ere long. All of them will be armed with the Armstrong one hundred pounder gun, and of course will prove a very formidable enemy. The British Government keeps the largest fleets on foreign stations. On our coast at the present time there are thirty war vessels, not enumerating transports, mounting six hundred and thirty guns. From our latest advices other ships are being fitted out and put in commission, which are destined for North America. Whatever the intentions of Her Majesty's Government may be, she intends to have a large naval force in our waters for the present at least.

The Philadelphia *North American* gives a description of the iron-clad "Warrior," and her associate vessels, which, as we may hereafter know more of them, we quote:—

The Warrior is a vessel of 6,000 tons burden. She has been tried as a sea-going ship, and found to be a complete success; her speed exceeds that of any war vessel in the world, and her size and power are unsurpassed. She is completely equipped. Her armament consists of eight guns on her upper deck, viz: two 100-pounder, four 40-pounder, and two 25-pounder Armstrong guns—and thirty-six guns on her main deck, ten of which are 100-pounders and the remainder 68-pounders, which throw shells filled with molten iron. With her steel armor on she weighs nine thousand tons, draws twenty-six feet of water, and can do sixteen and a half miles an hour. Her engines have nearly six thousand horse power, and she is built in compartments, each of which is both air and water tight. Her sister, the Black Prince, is of precisely the same size and armament, is also fully equipped, and has just made her first trial trip successfully. She steamed round from the Clyde, where she was built, to Spithead, at the rate of sixteen miles an hour, and in a few days is to take her place in the Channel fleet. Then there are two smaller frigates—the Resistance and the Defense. The latter was being fitted for sea at Sheerness, and the former at the Victoria docks. They are 2,700 tons burden each, and have by this time probably joined the Channel fleet. These four ships carry between them one hundred and twenty-six guns of the heaviest Armstrong pattern.

Then comes a class of ships of which but little is known at present, viz: the Valiant and the Hector. These ships are far advanced in construction, and will be ready for sea in May next. Their tonnage is about 400 tons more than the Resistance, and nearly 3,000 less than the Warrior. They are 280 feet long, 56 broad, and 39 deep; they have by no means a handsome appearance, owing to the stem and stern being almost precisely of the same form. The object of this is to give increased facilities of putting in the armor plates. The Valiant will differ from any other of the iron ships, in being completely protected above the water-line by armor plates.

Both the Valiant and the Hector are built in water-tight compartments, with a view to the safety as well as to the greater strength of the ship. There are not less than seventy-eight water-tight compartments. At the stem and stern, for about twelve feet at each end, behind the armor plates, the interior is perfectly honey-combed with iron cellular plates. The majority of these iron cells are not more than three feet deep, and less than two feet wide. Access to them are obtained through manholes in the different compartments. In some parts the cells are smaller, and a man, in passing down to the lower series, has his body in three of these iron compartments at the same time. Such is the admirable manner in which these dark chambers are constructed that they are not only water-tight but air-tight. The Valiant will carry thirty guns on the main decks and two pivots and four 68-pounders on the upper deck. On the fore part of the upper deck there will be a shield of iron, semi-circular in its form, and rising to the height of the hammock berthing for the protection of the men at the guns, while bearing down on the enemy. Her engines will be of 800 horse power, and she will draw about 25 feet water.

—"Bob," now called "Belmont Bob," is the body servant of Gen. McClernand, and at the battle of Belmont it is said of him that when the retreat commenced he started for the boats. Reaching the banks he dismounted and slid rapidly down, when an officer seeing the action, called, "Stop, you rascal, and bring the horse." Merely looking up as he waded to the plank through the mud, Cairo's character answered, "Can't 'bey, Colonel, Major told me to save most valuable property, and dis nigger's worf more'n a horse." It is seldom an estimation of difference in value is more quickly arrived at. Such things are slight in themselves, but similar scenes and characters daily seen in camp serve to break the monotony and give a fairer picture, perhaps, of soldier life than anything else.

—The Bowling Green rebel government of Kentucky proposes by enactment to make Confederate shin plasters equal to gold, by a tax of $25 a week upon all such brokers as refuse to so receive them on that basis.

—It is stated that since the destruction of the bridges on the Baltimore and Ohio road, thirty-one millions of dollars, which distributed yearly to its owners nearly two millions and a half of earnings, have been almost as dead as if they lay at the bottom of the river. In the year ending Sept. 30, 1860, this road carried into Baltimore 84,600 cars loaded with freight. Part of this was 32,000 head of cattle, 140,000 hogs, 45,000 sheep, 4,000 horses, and 400,000 tons of coal. Think of the vast numbers of merchants, miners, marines, truckmen, drivers, butchers, tanners, shoemakers, &c., employed by such a business, and even then it is hardly possible to realise the suffering inflicted by the stoppage of this railroad on the regions at each end and along its line. This road employed 233 engineers and 5,591 cars.

—The really vulnerable point of New York, as Major Barnard, in his admirable report, points out, is by an attack from the Long Island side. For the complete defense of the city there should be a series of forts and defensive works extending from Sheep's Head Bay to Newtown. Nothing but the most criminal negligence on the part of our national, state, and city governments would lose New York to the enemy in case of a war.

—Kentucky is even receiving the troops of Western Virginia, now that there is no longer need for them at home. The 2d Virginia cavalry, Col. Beller, went down to Catletsburg, Kentucky, the other day.

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

The News from England—Opinions on the street and in Congress—Shall we have War or Arbitration?—Dr. Brownson on the National Crisis—Some of the Peculiarities of Washington City.

[From our own Correspondent.]

Politicians, soldiers and citizens had hardly digested their surprise over the burning of Charleston, when the news from England swallowed up everything else, and, despite the apparent indifference, stunned both Cabinet and Congress. At first it was generally believed that England had determined on a quarrel with us, and had taken the Mason and Slidell affair as a convenient pretext. Several influential gentlemen expressed the belief that Mr. Seward had, in times past, sought to bully and humiliate England, on the mountebank theory that a war with some foreign power would unite us at home and bring Jeff. Davis and Beauregard over to our side—hence England had taken this opportunity to gratify him. Later advices, however, exhibiting the tone of the French and German press on the English side, and foreshadowing the nature of the demand likely to be made upon us, have tended to the belief that there is really some legal and rightful ground for that demand. It is hardly to be supposed that all the world would side with England in a question of maritime rights if public law were really against her; and if it be true that she makes the body of our offence to be the fact that Capt. Wilkes did not take the Trent into some port to have the question properly adjudicated, then the law officers of the Crown have merely taken the view already assumed by Capt. Wilkes and Secretary Welles. Capt. Wilkes says that the only reason why he did not take the Trent was that he could not spare a crew to navigate her. Secretary Welles says it is to be regretted that he did not take her. Thus a very obvious peaceable solution of the difficulty is presented.

Shall we have a war with England in any event? I think not, unless it shall appear that England has deliberately predetermined to fight us. Nothing has yet transpired indicating such a policy on her part, and surely she would not be sustained in such a course by other European powers. So far as yet appears, the question is one of mere law, and however distasteful and humiliating it may be to surrender Mason and Slidell, if the law is so clearly against us as to be pronounced that way by neutral powers, *we must do it*. There is no help for it. If we were in a condition to fight the first power in Europe—if we had not a war already on our hands, of unexampled magnitude, and one in which our generals seem to make no substantial progress—it is altogether probable we should rush blindly in, without asking on which side the law is found. We could doubtless show law enough to satisfy our own consciences and give bottom to our rage. But we are in no condition to take counsel of our passions, our anger, our animosity. It is in the power of England to open the blockade of the Southern ports and furnish the rebels with money, arms, munitions, naval power and everything they require for an aggressive war. Thus, we should have the largest naval power, the heaviest moneyed power, and the most numerous armies in the world except our own, upon us at once. We may well shiver on the brink of such a plunge as this. Our own treasury contains nothing to speak of at this time. If the *present* war lasts six months longer we shall have reached nearly the bottom of the country's resources. Beyond that we can only go by issuing Treasury notes, over and above the present paper currency of the country, multiplying prices, producing general bankruptcy and poverty—a financial policy which would be simply that of the Government stealing from the people and getting nothing by the theft. A war with England implies merely *endurance*. The seizure of the Canadas on the one side, a general blockade and a few bombardments along the sea coast on the water, a mutual and terrible devastation of commerce, would be only the beginning of the end. It would be a prolonged hug, equivalent to seeing which nation could hold breath longest. However we might fare if we could have an even chance, if we had not already a prodigious hug in our arms, if we had not already been holding our breath nearly nine months, it is plain that we should have a life-and-death struggle, in which the chances would be against us.

It is quite premature to be discussing the probable end and outcome of the difficulty. There are many in Congress who would refuse to surrender Mason and Slidell on any terms. The majority, I think—certainly the more sober and thoughtful members, both in Senate and House—will favor the policy of arbitration, and will advise the acceptance of the friendly offices of Napoleon, or Alexander, or any other government supposed to be alike friendly to both countries. If, however, it shall appear that England is bent upon a war, with or without cause, we must fight it out so long as we have the breath of life in us. Lord Lyons's dispatches have not yet reached Washington. Hence our Government have expressed no opinions.

Dr. Brownson's recent lecture at the hall of the Smithsonian Institute deserves more than a passing notice. It was the first lecture of the first course of popular lectures ever delivered in Washington. While Chicago, in common with other cities and towns in the North, has had its regular courses of these literary, political and philosophical entertainments for ten years, the Federal metropolis has never before had one. Nor is it singular that this form of popular instruction should follow close upon the departure of the slave drivers. It is a logical sequence. Knowledge occupies only the ground whence slavery is excluded. The two things are incompatible. There never was a slave country yet that was an enlightened country, and Greece and Rome form no exception to the rule. It cannot be said that people who thought they could read the future in the entrails of bullocks were enlightened; and even Socrates sacrificed to the harlequin gods of his day.

The present course, of which Dr. Brownson's was the first, has been arranged by the Washington Lecture Association, of which old Dr. Pierpont is the President, and W. A. Croffut (of Minnesota) Secretary. As I have seen nowhere a report, of any kind, of Dr. Brownson's remarks, I presume a brief sketch will be interesting, notwithstanding it can hardly claim the character of news when it reaches Chicago. Dr. B. is a stout looking gentleman, about five feet ten inches in height, apparently 55 years of age, with gray mixed hair, whiskers and moustache, and altogether a pleasant cast of countenance. His lecture, though not up to the colossal proportions of his article in the *Quarterly Review*, was full of the stalwart strength and independence which characterize him. Unfortunately his eyes have nearly failed him, and he is obliged to speak without the use of notes or other manuscript, and apparently extempore. I shall give only a few salient points of his discourse. War, said he, is never *the* evil; the evil is the cause which preceded it. The condition of the country is less calamitous now than it was four years ago, when manhood and religion seemed alike departed from the American people. The evil had become so inveterate and deep seated that it required what physicians call a *heroic remedy*. To all appearance we were a nation of mammon worshippers and man stealers. Hence he welcomed war with all his heart, to enkindle the higher and nobler faculties, and assert the unselfish and godlike principles which have been given us; and he only insisted that it should be war and not mere parade. *We must not only be willing to die, but willing to kill.* For the very reason that he was in earnest about this business he was for taking all the advantages that were offered, either by our own strength or the enemy's weakness. The question was palpably before the country: "Which shall be sacrificed—the nation or slavery?" He had never been disposed to interfere with slavery in the South, yet he had never been fond of the institution anywhere. He had never belonged to any political party so as to be bound to its action, and yet, ever since he was old enough to vote, he had voted under threats of dissolution of the Union. *The first shot that struck Fort Sumter knocked off his fetters*, and he would never consent to have them replaced. The free States had timidly asserted their independence in the election of Mr. Lincoln. Now let that victory be made so complete that no future slave rebellion shall ever call honest men and patriots from the avocations of peace and the joys of home, to the battle field and the hospital. He had been asked whether he would have the horrors of San Domingo repeated here. No; he wanted *all* such horrors put away and kept away from the American people. The first horror of San Domingo was perpetrated by the masters, who took the colored men who had been appointed as a committee to petition for the freedom of his race, and broke his body on a wheel, leaving him to die in lingering agony, exposed naked in the market-place, and subjected to the rays of a burning sun and the stinging of innumerable insects. And yet the victim had only acted in accordance with the mandate of the Constituent Assembly of France, whose colony San Domingo was, declaring all the mulattoes of the French West Indies to be free men. He (Brownson) would make whatever use of the negroes would be for the greatest advantage of the loyal cause, and he would have the army, as it progresses, protect the master against the slave as well as the slave against the master. The fact that slavery was the cause of the war is too plain for argument, and now we must strike at slavery *if we would not see our blows rebound against ourselves.*

It was not easy to convince myself that it was a Washington audience which applauded these sentiments so vociferously. The population of the District is changing visibly and rapidly. There is an enormous influx of strangers from the North, who have *come to stay*. They are bringing their goods and their tools. They are buying lots and making ready to build. A few years of their presence here would transform Washington from an overgrown village, choked with public buildings, to a symmetrical and beautiful city, with hotels, stores and private residences corresponding in extent and elegance with the Government edifices. There is no hotel here which would rank above second class in Chicago, and I have visited many towns in New England, of less than twenty thousand inhabitants, possessing a larger number of fine residences than can be found in this Federal metropolis. The paucity of room and scantiness of accommodations which Senators and Representatives are forced to put up with when they come to Washington are astonishing.

☞ A few days since the oath of allegiance was administered to the employees of the *Congressional Globe*. Some refused to take it, and their places have been filled by others.

A War with England to be Avoided.

Editors Chicago Tribune:

The old adage that "passion is blind" is strongly illustrated in the recklessness with which a portion of the American press and people now talk of war with England.

A small amount of reflection is sufficient to convince all candid minds that the question of the seizure of Mason and Slidell on the Trent is one that should be determined purely in the light of international law. To such law our Nation is but an individual party, and cannot claim to have its own way, irrespective of other nations. If we are in the right, it will appear all the more clearly from dispassionate and dignified discussion, and we shall be sustained all the more surely by other nations, and by England herself in the end, if we manifest a calm reliance on the right, instead of putting on the airs of defiance and braggadocio.

Probably there was not a thinking man in the United States who did not, on first learning of the Trent seizure, feel apprehensions that trouble might grow out of it. It will be remembered that Captain Wilkes himself was reported to have informed General Wool that "he *thought* he was right, but right or wrong he was bound to take the rebel emissaries." A month followed of one-sided discussion of the affair, in which we thoroughly convinced ourselves, in accordance with our inclinations, that Wilkes was right, and that England would meekly pocket the affront to her flag, regarding us as a highly forbearing and magnanimous people in not having seized her mail packet as a prize!

At length quite another tale is told. England fails to see the propriety of having passengers forcibly taken out of her mail ships by a nation proverbially hostile to the right of search against her own ships. As nearly everybody at first expected she would do, she demands an apology and the restoration of the prisoners.

Now come bluster and defiance on our part. It is not a little to be feared that members of the Cabinet are disposed to practice it, and it is very evident that a portion of the press and numerous demagogues throughout the country are disposed to seize upon the occasion as one eminently favorable to a ventilation of their sublime courage and their disregard of consequences, provided England does not comply with our terms. It is surely time for us to pause and count the cost, and this is a juncture in which all the discretion and enlightened prudence of the country will need be called into active exercise to prevent the nation from drifting into a maelstrom of difficulties, if not into absolute wreck.

In the first place, let us remember that the detention of Mason and Slidell, though a capital thing in its way, is altogether an insignificant matter to cause a war under any circumstances. We ought not to allow two such traitors to be so greatly magnified in their own estimation and that of the world as to be the cause of wasting much life and treasure that might otherwise be employed in crushing out a giant slave rebellion. Let us not be oblivious to the hint of the London *Times*, that "the voices of these Southern Commissioners sounding from their captivity are a thousand times more eloquent than they would have been if heard at St. James and the Tuileries," and if we let the old rebels go this time, let us hope to catch them when they try to come home again.

In the second place, let it not be forgotten that whatever diplomatic complications may arise, there is *no motive* for a war between the United States and Great Britain. All the best interests of the two countries will be promoted by the continuance of peace. A conflict between two such countries can only result in mutual injury, and perhaps ruin, without the first good result.

Third; some of the evil results to ourselves ought to be distinctly foreseen, although it is impossible in advance fully to conceive of their destructive consequences.

One of the most probable results of a war at this time with Great Britain, would be the success of the slave rebellion and a permanent division of the Union. Flatter ourselves as we may, with great words and pleasing hopes, we have just as much on our hands now as we can accomplish, and unless our future success shall exceed the past, it will be a long time before we can vindicate our supremacy within our own borders. As Mr. Sumner has justly said, the world has never before known a rebellion of such gigantic proportions. Let us be content to show our prowess by putting this down before we fight with foreign nations. Already a debt of $900,000,000 looms up before us, without the slightest apprehension of the invasion of the Free States.

Let our whole Eastern coast and our whole Northern line, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, become liable to the attack of a powerful foe at this moment, floating 600 war ships and having a large and disciplined army, and we must necessarily leave the rebels to themselves and fall back upon attempts to defend our cities and our firesides at home.

Already in our civil war more lives have been lost than in the whole war of 1812.

Estimate who can the terrible destruction which must fall upon life and property, should we actually go to war with a nation like England. I will not dwell upon the horrible details which the imagination pictures as the very least of the evil consequences we must expect; but I call attention to the fact that in the end, whoever may live to see it, *no settlement can be made which will not involve greater concessions than England will demand of us now.* Let us, then, be considerate. If we must choose between evils, let us take the least. It will be far better to yield a little now rather than to run the risk of greater calamities and the greater concessions which must inevitably follow at the end of a bloody war, which can not fail to reduce our population, divide our territory, desolate our fairest cities, and put us back years, if not ages, in the track of progress. K.

The True Issue.

Editors Chicago Tribune:

Abraham Lincoln once said that he who would himself be free, must own no slaves! He never spoke more truly. We all may now say that if *we* would indeed be free, we must emancipate ourselves from all complicity and influence growing out of slaveholding.

However much we might have been content under the peaceful rule of the Constitution to bear our burden, now when rebellion and treason would be King we should strike at the foundations of their throne and displace the cause of all our troubles. Yea, even if Pharaoh and all his hosts be swallowed up in the Red Sea.

The rebels are killing our brothers and sons and fathers—they are fighting for dominion, and for setting up the most cruel despotism in the place of our Government. They have no money; they are pirates and tyrants, and are drunk with the madness of slavery. The cry of our soldiers to the leaders of our hosts is to be led forward. They writhe under the infliction of delay, and they curse such proclamations as those of Halleck and Sherman. They are tired of temporizing. They are beginning to feel that the few slaveholders in the border States are too precious in the sight of the Government; that it is time to let them fight it out in these border States among themselves; that we should strike at the seceded States, and by knocking out the underpinning, let those borderers fall with the rest. The most troublesome men to take care of in this war, our soldiers say, are the Union slaveholders. They are called on to defend these men against the rebels, to act as patrols against their negroes, and to find them often only half way loyal, and none in the ranks of the Union army, though of officers they have more than their full share.

Let there be no fear that our army will be found lagging behind our Government, in the most efficient and radical measures against slavery. A few days ago one of our officers—a Douglas Democrat—on reading General Order No. 3, could hold in no longer. He exclaimed against it and pronounced it untrue that fugitive slaves would, or have, returned from our armies to convey intelligence to the enemy. He said that after all, Jim Lane was the only sensible man among our commanding officers, and that the temporizing policy adopted by our Generals would ruin any army. Another Democratic officer writes: "Fugitive slaves sometimes steal into our lines—they make valuable servants and cooks for our army—they are faithful and valuable—if I had my way I would receive all who come and arm them in the fight." A few of the "*stay at homes to vote*" people, and the Knights of the Golden Circle, may writhe under the process of freedom, but they are of no consequence in the war. Their lone cry in the wilderness, like that of Jackall, will be more noisy and mournful. They do but hunt for the black lion of slavery. Kill the lion and they will betake themselves to flight. ***

Immediate Action Needed.

Whatever changes Congress makes in the tariff should be made without loss of time. It is of great importance to the revenue that the new war tariff should be passed so as to take effect before the middle of January. At that time the new sugar crop begins to arrive, and it is also the season for the heaviest importation of foreign luxuries for the year. The stock on hand of various important articles of consumption is now remarkably low, and it is probable that heavy importations will begin at once. During the present month the new crop of tea begins to arrive. Coffee is shipped hither commonly from October to April, but we hear that the first orders of the season have just gone out from here, the stock on hand having become so diminished that prices have risen to a rate at which it becomes profitable to import.

The Cuban sugar crop is just beginning to come to the markets of the island. It is said to be very fine; it is early; and it promises to be very large. It will be a blunder to let this crop get into our ports before the duties are advanced. We trust the Committee of Ways and Means will take pains to report early to the House a revised war revenue bill; and Congress should act upon it as soon as it is presented. It should go into operation with as little delay as possible, and goods in warehouse should be forced to pay the new duties unless entered for consumption before the tariff takes effect. Nor can we afford, in such times as these, so to postpone the new duties as to enable all goods on shipboard to arrive under the old duty. If we do this, we shall cut ourselves off from half the revenue of the year.—*N. Y. Eve. Post.*

☞ Dispatches received at Washington on the 18th state that the rebels in the South are wild with excitement over the news received by the Europa, indicating that England has assumed a hostile attitude towards the United States. They regard it as an evidence of the intention of Great Britain to take up their quarrel and fight their battles.

Wanted—The New England Fishermen.

[From the New York World, 18th inst.]

We have received from the efficient Assistant Secretary of the Navy the following statement of facts, in reply to some suggestions of ours, as to inducements for obtaining the fishermen of New England in the navy. It will be seen that the department now offers every advantage and inducement to that brave class of seamen which is reasonably to be expected. They can ship at any rendezvous for the war, and only for the war; there is little or no probability of their being sent on foreign stations; there is plenty of active work to be done at home, and to be done immediately. Several expeditions are nearly ready to sail for the Southern coast—where there is sure to be fighting. The ships, steamboats, and bomb-vessels are ready. It is the men who are wanted. The fishermen of New England have received a bounty for sixty-two years, because they trained sailors who might be needed for the nation's navy. The equivalent for that bounty is now due. Let it be paid. New England fishermen! the country calls for you.

We take the liberty of subjoining the brief letter of the Assistant Secretary:

NAVY DEPARTMENT, Dec. 16, 1861.

To the Editor of the World:

In Saturday's issue you propose to offer three inducements for obtaining the fishermen of New England in the navy.

1. To allow them to enlist for the war.
2. To guarantee that they shall not be sent upon foreign stations.
3. To give them an opportunity to take part in the war.

The answer to these propositions are as follows:

1. They can ship at any rendezvous for the war.
2. There is very little probability of their going upon foreign stations. If a few of them are drafted it will be but a small proportion of the whole number required upon the coast.
3. Several important expeditions are nearly ready to sail for the States in rebellion, and the Department can assure all that will join active participation in the war for the Union.

The fishermen of New England, who have received the bounty of Government for sixty-two years, are now invited by the Secretary to come forward and fulfill the expectations which induced that bounty. The ships, and steamboats, and bomb-vessels are ready.

I am respectfully, your ob't servant,
G. V. FOX, Ass't Sec'y Navy.

The Situation on the Potomac.

[Washington Cor. of the N. Y. World, 17th.]

The army of this Department—embracing the eight divisions across the river, the divisions of Banks and Stone, and the Lower Potomac column, led by Gen. Hooker—is now in such a state of readiness that no lack of equipment or organization can be legitimately said to delay it from instant action. If the army which these divisions compose is not formed of thoroughly-instructed soldiers, its forces are at least, *relatively with those of the enemy*, in as good fighting order as they will be next spring. While we improve the rebels are improving also. Let me now repeat that, for a dozen reasons, you must not allow the apparent stagnation hereabout to make you despair of a speedy and imposing advance. We are not going into winter quarters; even if it should seem advisable from the martinet's point of view, such a course cannot be adopted by Government and its Generals. The most imminent, insurmountable obstacles stand in the way; the most cogent motives press the army forward to decisive conflict.

Gen. McClellan is therefore only holding the main column in check that it may not forestall the advance of those divisions which are to co-operate with and sustain it. We are awaiting the completion and departure of Gen. Burnside's expedition, the reinforcement of Gen. Wool, whose numbers at Fortress Monroe are greatly reduced, and of Gen. Rosecrans, who can just now make two more brigades most useful; the further concentration of the grand columns led by Generals Buell and Halleck; finally, the effects of the Christmas holidays on the internal condition of the Southern States. The military inference from the imbroglio is that Gen. McClellan's concerted movement will be hastened, not retarded, by the cloud rising in the east. What we do must be done quickly.

WAR VESSELS FITTING OUT.

Part of Gen. Burnside's Expedition.

[From the N. Y. Post, 18th inst.]

The preparations for the expedition under the command of Gen. Burnside have caused a great increase of business at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and appearances indicate that the workmen will have their hands full for some time to come. Four vessels have been put into commission at the Navy Yard since Tuesday last, namely:

The new gun-boat Winona, Lieutenant-Commanding G. P. Nichols; armament two 32-pounders, broadside; 1 eleven-inch columbiad, and one rifled Parrott gun.

The new gun-boat Chippewa, Lieut-Commanding Andrew Bryson; armament same as Winona.

The steamer Quaker City, Commander Jas. M. Frailey; armament eight 32-pounders, broadside, and one rifled Parrott gun.

The schooner Hope, Master's Mate M. S. Chase. This vessel was formerly a private yacht, afterwards on coast survey duty, and will now be used as a despatch boat, being a very quick sailer.

The purchased steamer Norwich, from Bridgeport, Connecticut, and the bark Restless arrived at the Yard yesterday to be armed and put in commission. They have already received the alterations necessary to convert them into vessels of war. The bark Pursuit has received her armament, which consists of six 32-pounders. The Winona will leave the Yard to-day and anchor off the Battery to receive her powder. She was preparing to leave yesterday, but had to be floated into the dry dock, which she had just left, in consequence of her propeller getting entangled in a rope.

The U. S. vessels of war now at this port or at the Navy Yard, and ready for service, are as follows:

No.	Names of Vessels.	Description.	Guns.
1.	Vandalia,	Sloop-of-war,	21
2.	Oneida,	Sloop-of-war,	7
3.	Tuscarora,	Sloop-of-war,	7
4.	Winona,	Gunboat,	4
5.	Chippewa,	Gunboat,	4
6.	Cayuga,	Gunboat,	4
7.	Owasco,	Gunboat,	4
8.	Quaker City,	Steamer,	9
9.	Mercedita,	Steamer,	6
10.	Wyandotte,	Steamer,	10
11.	Potomska,	Steamer,	8
12.	Norwich,	Steamer,	8
13.	Nightingale,	Ship,	6
14.	Arthur,	Bark,	6
15.	Pursuit,	Bark,	6
16.	Restless,	Bark,	6

GENERAL BURNSIDE'S EXPEDITION.

There is a probability that a part of the vessels named in the foregoing list may be employed in General Burnside's expedition. In addition to these, several gunboats have recently been purchased and fitted out, a few of which have sailed within a few days for Annapolis, while others are lying in our harbor awaiting orders.

Among these gunboats are the following:

Bombshell		
Cadet		
Chasseur	—formerly the	St. Nicholas.
Cossack	"	Eastern City.
Dragon	"	Remington.
Grape Shot	"	
Grenade	"	
Guerilla	"	Mary S. Kimball
Guide	"	Admiral
Highlander	"	Clairmont.
Hussar	"	Davis.
Lancer	"	Dutchess.
Picket	"	Philadelphia.
Pioneer	"	Sherman.
Ranger	"	
Recruit	"	Stampede.
Rocket	"	
Scout	"	Geo. Davis
Sentinel	"	Mayo.
Shrapnel	"	
Skirmisher	"	Mary C Hopkins
Vedette	"	Reliance.
Voltigeur	"	Jabob Merritt.
Zouave	"	Marshall Ney.

The Government is constantly purchasing vessels suitable for transportation or for conversion into gun boats, in order to provide a naval force sufficient for all emergencies.

From East Tennessee—Parson Brownlow.

The Cincinnati *Gazette* of the 20th states interesting information from East Tennessee, obtained from Col. C. F. Trigg, one of the East Tennessee patriots, who arrived in the city the previous evening, from Knoxville. He represents the condition of affairs in East Tennessee as desperate. The Union men, although compelled to remain silent and undemonstrative, are firm as a rock, and true as steel to the good old Government, but their fidelity daily costs them dear.

The day preceding the one on which Colonel Trigg left Knoxville, Brownlow had an interview with Gen. George B. Crittenden, relative to his conveyance to the Federal lines in Kentucky, as Benjamin, the rebel Secretary of War, had, in a letter to Gen. C., declared his willingness that Brownlow should leave Confederate soil, stating that he considered him far more dangerous there than in the Federal army. In accordance, then, with this view, Crittenden ordered a company of cavalry to conduct Brownlow to Zollicoffer's camp, whence he could make his way to the Federal lines; and upon the strength of this order—which Brownlow took the precaution to have committed to paper—he made every preparation to leave. But his disappointment can be best imagined when he was taken prisoner the next evening, on a warrant issued by a rebel Commissioner named Reynolds, who was only too glad of any excuse to deprive the brave patriot of his liberty.

There are about 1,500 rebel soldiers in Knoxville, well armed, and comfortably clad in rough jean blouses, but without overcoats. The number includes one company of cavalry and one of artillery. There are seventy or eighty Union men in jail in the city, forty-eight of whom had just been sent to Tuscaloosa, Ala., where, it was rumored, a penitentiary had been established, and Union prisoners set to work.

General Stone, of Ball's Bluff.

As we recently stated, Governor Andrew, of Massachusetts, has appealed to the Secretary of War to stop the shameful conduct of negro-catching for secession owners, and it was high time. Mr. Cameron will see that justice is done, and if he removes Gen. Stone from all command, he will not more than satisfy the country. A writer in the Boston *Transcript* comments bitterly on the conduct of Gen. Stone, and says:

"He is known to be in high favor with the Maryland secessionists. These fellows express the greatest confidence in Gen. Stone; and why should they not? He orders the troops under his command to obey and observe the laws of Maryland, which forbid the harboring of fugitive slaves, &c.; protects known traitors who have been arrested by subordinate officers for making signals to the enemy, and when brought before him have been discharged with a reprimand to the officers making such arrests; sends back all negroes found in the camps to whoever claims them; and, to crown his recommendations to their favor, has needlessly, foolishly, criminally, ordered our Massachusetts troops to unavailing slaughter."

Now that a bar is put to investigation as to Ball's Bluff, there should be all the more reason to look for general amendment in Gen. Stone's course.

WAR SONGS FOR THE ARMY AND THE PEOPLE—No. 2.

BY PLEBS.

THE NEW JOHN BROWN SONG.

[NOTE BY THE AUTHOR.—PLEBS meant the following for No. 1 of his series, and sent it to the printers accordingly; but the copy was mislaid, so it comes in second. PLEBS found that the air to the old song was uncommonly taking, but the words as meaningless as could be, so he has retained the first line and the chorus—"His soul is marching on; Glory, Hallelujah"—and made the rest of new cloth. If any one should be staggered at the language of the fourth stanza, let him remember that Christ is King as well as Priest; a Judge and Avenger as well as a Saviour; and that the Bible that tells of the "*blood* of the Lamb," speaks also of the "*wrath* of the Lamb." As an Avenger He has various providential forerunners, as He has various comings, and one of his predicted works is to deliver the poor and needy and slay their enemies. See the seventy-second Psalm, first fourteen verses. The music, with the words, can be had of Root & Cady, Clark street.]

I.
Old John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave,
While weep the sons of bondage, whom he ventured all to save;
But though he lost his life in struggling for the slave,
His soul is marching on; Glory, Hallelujah!

II.
John Brown was a hero, undaunted, true and brave,
And Kansas knew his valor, when he fought her rights to save;
And now, though the grass grows green above his grave,
His soul is marching on; Glory, &c.

III.
He captured Harper's Ferry with his nineteen men so few,
And he frightened "Old Virginny" till she trembled through and through;
They hung him for a traitor, themselves a traitor crew,
But his soul is marching on; Glory, &c.

IV.
John Brown was John the Baptist, of the Christ we are to see—
Christ, who of the bondman shall the Liberator be;
And soon throughout the sunny South, the slaves shall all be free,
For his soul is marching on; Glory, &c.

V.
The conflict that he heralded, he looks from Heaven to view,
On the army of the Union, with its flag red, white and blue;
And Heaven shall ring with anthems o'er the deed they mean to do,
For his soul is marching on; Glory, &c.

VI.
Ye soldiers of Freedom, then strike while strike ye may,
The death-blow of oppression, in a better time and way;
For the dawn of old John Brown has brightened into day,
And his soul is marching on; Glory, &c.

Report of the Sanitary Commission.

The Sanitary Commission has just issued a circular, stating the general objects and results of its organization, and appealing for additional contributions for their prosecution. The financial statement shows that they have received over $28,000 in money, of which, according to the latest report, about $18,000 have been expended in salaries and traveling expenses, printing, hospital supplies, &c., the latter item, including nurses, amounting to $2,596. The amount still on hand is about $10,000—the monthly expenses of the Commission averaging about $5,000 a month—"a trifle," as the report justly says, "compared with what the private charity of the country can afford to contribute toward saving the lives of our soldiers,"—and a trifle, it might have been added, compared with what it *will* contribute, if satisfied that the process is at once the most effective and economical. Of the amount thus far contributed, one-third has been derived from various Life Insurance Companies, one of these institutions having given the munificent donation of $4,000, another $3,000, and three others $1,000 each.

The working staff of the Commission till recently consisted of six Inspectors. The number is now increased to fifteen, most of whom are physicians. The duty of these Inspectors is two-fold. First, they "travel from camp to camp, pointing out defects and suggesting improvements in camp police, ventilation of tents and quarters, drainage, camp-cooking, the supply and quality of water, and generally in everything that bears on the health of the command." Secondly, they are to "give officers in charge of military hospitals not only professional aid, if desired, but extra hospital clothing, food, medicine, vaccine virus, and stores not included in the Government supply-list, or which the Government cannot promptly provide." These fifteen gentlemen, who are all, we presume, civilians, and have acquired their experience in cities, rather than in camps, constitute the effective staff, the working agents, by whose inspection, inquiry and advice, the great objects in view are supposed chiefly to be accomplished.

☞ When Mr. Faulkner, late Minister to France, and in such capacity a traitor to his Government, was in Washington the other day, fresh from incarceration at Fort Warren, he was *invited to take a seat on the floor of the House*. He had the grace to decline, upon the ground that he was the Chairman of the Committee which reported the rules excluding ex-Members of Congress from the floor. But look at the inconsistency and indecency of extending him such courtesy at all. Here is a man arrested in dangerous conspiracy against his Government, even while representing it abroad. If there was that in his offence from which he deserved a prison, why should our legislator, go out of their way to extend to him unusual civilities? When is this thing to end? Let us have one thing or the other, and not this sad jumble of arrests and cajolings, which at the Capital mark the course extended to ward traitors. If rebels are the enemies of the Government, treat them as such. There is no nation under the sun that could maintain respect at home or abroad by any other course.

☞ Paris letters state that in spite of all denial, it is well known that a large number of recruits are levying in France for the United States. The old Garibaldian officers and volunteers are all being organized for a speedy departure, and are only waiting for the orders of their chief to embark. This chief, a well known French officer, who, after defending the barricades of the Republic in Paris, fought the battles of the Empire in the Crimea, then took service with Garibaldi, and is now in that of Victor Emanuel, has given in his resignation, and was hourly expected in Paris. The clothing-house of Godillot had been busy for the last ten days in making the uniforms of this legion. Ten thousand tunics had been issued from the *usine*, bearing the buttons of the Union. The greater part of these uniforms have been forwarded to Havre, where they are to await the commissaire appointed to take charge of them to New York, and who was on his way from Turin, where he had been to obtain personal instructions from the future commander of the legion.

☞ It is a matter of common assertion that coal oil will not explode. Yet serious accidents have arisen from the explosion of lamps in which coal oil was burned. A case of this kind has undergone legal and scientific investigation in England. It was found that the paraffine or coal oil which was of the specific gravity of 0.820 did not explode; but the substitute, which seemed to be petroleum oil, and had a specific gravity of 0.794, was explosive.

The verdict of the jury stated that it was the vapor of the oil and not the oil itself which exploded.

☞ The third meeting in behalf of the soldiers, under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association, will be held on Sabbath evening, Dec. 22d, at 7½ o'clock, in the United Presbyterian Church, corner of Washington and Jefferson streets. Revs. Patterson, Raymond, Bassett, and Messrs. Farwell, Jacobs, Richardson, Moody and King, will address the meeting. The friends of the soldier and the Christian public are cordially invited.

Opinion of John Quincy Adams.

"What order of men under the most absolute of monarchies, or the most aristocratic of republics, was ever invested with such an odious and unjust privilege as that of the separate and exclusive representation of less than half a million owners of slaves, and in the Presidential mansion? This investment of power in the owners of one species of property concentrated in the highest authorities of the nation, and disseminated through thirteen of the twenty-six States of the Union, constitutes a privileged order of men in the community, more adverse to the rights of all, and more pernicious to the interests of the whole, than any order of nobility ever known. To call government thus constituted a Democracy is to insult the understanding of mankind. It is doubly tainted with the infection of riches and of slavery. There is no name in the language of national jurisprudence that can define it—no model in the records of ancient history, or in the political theories of Aristotle, with which it can be linked. It was introduced into the Constitution of the United States by an equivocation—a representation of property under the name of persons. Little did the members of the Convention from the Free States imagine or foresee what a sacrifice to Moloch was hidden under the mask of this concession."

A RELIC.—We have upon our table a bullet mould of black marble, with 1768 engraved on one of its sides, and the old New England Pine Tree on the other. Four musket-balls and something over twenty buckshot can be cast in it at once. If it could speak it would probably be able to tell us something about Indian battles as well as the struggles of the Revolution. It is an heirloom in the family of Mr. H. S. Goodrich.—*Henry County Dial.*

Senator Wilson's Bill for the Abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia—The Compensation of Owners Provided for.

The following is the bill introduced by Senator Wilson for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia:

Be it enacted, etc., That all persons held to service or labor within the District of Columbia, by reason of African descent, are hereby discharged and freed of and from all claim to such service or labor, and subjection to service or labor, proceeding from such cause, shall not hereafter exist in the said District.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That all persons holding claims to service or labor against persons discharged therefrom by this act may, within ninety days from the passage hereof, (but not thereafter,) present to the commissioners hereinafter mentioned, their respective statement or petitions, in writing, verified by oath or affirmation, setting forth the names, ages, and personal description of such persons, the manner in which said petitioners acquired such claims, and any facts touching the value thereof.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint three commissioners, residents of the District of Columbia, any two of whom shall have power to act, who shall receive the petitions above mentioned, and who shall investigate and determine the legal validity of the claims therein presented, and who shall apprise and apportion, under the proviso hereto annexed, the value in money of the several claims by them found to be valid. *Provided, however*, That the entire sum so appraised and appropriated shall not exceed in the aggregate an amount equal to three hundred dollars for each person shown to have been held by lawful claim.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners shall, within nine months from the passage of this act, make a full and final report of their proceedings, findings, and appraisement, and shall deliver the same to the Secretary of the Treasury, which report shall be deemed and taken to be conclusive in all respects, except as hereinafter provided; and the Secretary of the Treasury shall, with like exception, cause the amounts, so apportioned to said claims, to be paid from the Treasury of the United States to the parties found by said report to be the lawful holders thereof, and the same shall be received in full and complete compensation; *Provided*, That in cases where petitions may be filed, presenting conflicting claims or setting up liens, commissioners shall so specify in said report, and payment shall not be made according to the award of the said commissioners until a period of sixty days shall have elapsed; during which time, any petitioners claiming an interest in the particular amount may file a bill in equity, in the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, setting forth the proceedings in such case before the said commissioners and their action therein, and praying that the party to whom payment has been awarded may be enjoined from receiving the same; and if the said court shall grant such a provisional order, a copy thereof may, on motion of the said complainant, be served upon the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall thereupon cause the said amount of money to be paid into the said court, subject to its orders and final decree, which payment shall be in full and complete compensation, as in other cases.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners shall hold their sessions in the city of Washington, at such place and times as the President of the United States may direct, of which they shall give due and public notice. They shall have power to subpœna and compel the attendance of witnesses, and to receive testimony and enforce its production, as in civil cases before courts of justice, and they may summon before them the persons making claim to service or labor, and examine them under oath; and they may also, for purposes of identification and appraisement, call before them the persons so claimed. The said commissioners shall appoint a clerk, who shall keep files and a complete record of all proceedings before them, who shall have power to administer oaths and affirmations in the said proceedings, and who shall issue all lawful processes by them ordered.

The marshal of the District of Columbia shall personally, or by deputy, attend upon the sessions of the said commissioners, and shall execute the process issued by the said clerk.

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted*, That the said commissioners shall receive in compensation for their services the sum of two thousand dollars each, to be paid upon their filing of their report; that the said clerk shall receive for his services the sum of $200 per month; that the said marshal shall receive such fees as are allowed by law for similar services performed by him in the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia; that the Secretary of the Treasury shall cause all other reasonable expenses of the said commission to be audited and allowed, and that the said compensation, fees, and expenses, shall be paid from the Treasury of the United States.

SEC. 7. *Be it further enacted*, That for the purpose of carrying this act into effect, there is hereby appropriated from the Treasury of the United States a sum not exceeding one million of dollars.

In full Armor Clad.

Yankee ingenuity is moving in the direction of restoring to the warrior the mail of yore, which we had thought laid aside as useless, now that Minie balls have such a searching way of their own as compared with the old lance and its still feebler companion arms. We mentioned a day or two since that a Connecticut manufacturer was making coats of mail. An exchange enables us to speak of the armor more particularly. It has been submitted to rigid tests and flattened rifle balls attest to its powers of resistance:

The armor vest was struck forty-one times, by balls from fully charged Sharp's, Wesson's, United States, and Henry's patent rifles, at distances ranging from thirty-five to forty rods; the effect being, that the ball was in every instance completely flattened upon the armor, but in no case passed through it. The balls indented in all cases, to the depth of from two to five-eighths of an inch. In four of the plates, small fractures were made; one by a single ball from Henry's patent rifle, (which seems to be the most powerful on the field,) one by a ball from Wesson's rifle which struck within the circle of a previously formed indentation, one by a ball which struck in precisely the same place in which another preceding it had expended its full force, and one by three balls striking in close proximity. In no instance, however, was the fracture sufficient to allow the ball to pass through any one of the plates, or to perforate or injure in any manner the canvas, which, in cases, closely pressed the inside of the armor; a result which seems to justify the practical conclusion that had the six suits of armor thus tested been worn by as many soldiers, no one of them could have received a flesh wound on any part of the body which lay within the circumference of this armor, though fairly struck six times each by ball from the most powerful rifles known, at the short distance of forty rods.

☞ The Government promptly recalled Captain Palmer, of the Iroquois, on hearing of the last escape of the Sumter, and last week dispatched the gunboat Tuscarora across the Atlantic with sealed orders. The Navy is pressed for ships, and is securing all it can. All feel now that the Navy must be increased and ships added in large numbers. We can hardly have too many, if fit for ocean and coast service.

The prompt dismissal of Commander Palmer, of the Iroquois, from the Navy on Saturday, is significant of the indignation felt towards him by the Department and the Government. His delinquencies are traced to cowardice or sympathy, and the mortification felt at his failure to catch the bird when just at the prison door, is very great. A successor has been dispatched to relieve him. Also one or two Government vessels to look after the Nashville, when she shall make her escape from Southampton.

THE ROYAL YACHT.—This vessel, whose capture was recently announced, was splendidly fitted up for privateer work. She was captured in Galveston Harbor, Texas. Among the thirteen prisoners were several well known pilots. She carried one 32-pounder, which was spiked by our gallant sailors before the vessel was set on fire; a few stands of arms and the schooner's colors were brought off.

☞ Among the items of intelligence by the last steamer from Europe is the announcement of the death of the Abbé Lacordaire, the most celebrated of French pulpit orators. Deeply versed in the law of the church; a politician as well as priest; a believer in the infallibility of Popery, yet a sturdy opponent of the temporal power of the Pope; a man of blameless life, yet thoroughly a man of the world; religion, statesmanship, scholarship have sustained a heavy loss in his death. He was a voluminous writer, a quick and clear thinker, a man of generous sympathies yet of inveterate dislikes, fond of controversy, uncompromising, hard-headed, radical in his opinions, yet strongly attached to the traditions of the past.

Condition of the Erie Canal.

The water in the canal has not yet been let off, and will probably remain as it is for several days. We learn that the Resident Engineer at Rochester has completed the estimates of the cost of constructing double locks between that city and Syracuse, and the prospects are that the work will be commenced at as early a day as practicable. It is now supposed that it will be necessary to have a special act of the legislature, in order to legalize the construction of these locks. The attention of the legislature will be called to the proposed improvement at an early day.—*Buffalo Courier, 19th.*

"IS IT TRUE?—When there is any intimation that the war will be properly prosecuted, and that Slavery shall take care of itself, that in the establishment of the Government no regard will be had to what is claimed as slave property, more than is paid to other contraband of war that while we take powder, cannon, wagons, horses and other species of property, we should not exempt what, to our enemies, is of the greatest use, and what, in fact, was the very foundation of the war, there is at once, what seems to us the most unpatriotic, if not treasonable declarations made about the army, and the officers. The New York *Express* and *Herald* and the Chicago *Journal* at once, tell us that the officers will resign, the soldiers will disband, ruin will be inevitable, for Fouke says, that recruiting would cease at even the modification of Gen. Halleck's 3d order prohibiting slaves entering his camp. Is this true?"—*Bureau County Republican.*

☞ At Camp Utley, Racine, Nos. 1 and 2 of the splendid Wisconsin batteries are under marching orders, and will leave as soon as paid off.

THE FARM AND GARDEN.

The May Cherry, its History so far as we know—Is it the Early Richmond?—The Rural New Yorker set right.

CHAMPAIGN, Ill., Dec. 10, 1861.

We have, from time to time since the year 1855, brought to the attention of cultivators the great worth of this cherry, its hardiness, profuse bearing and easy culture. We had supposed that we had made its history and qualities pretty well understood, from the fact of its wide dissemination since that time. We claim no particular credit in the premises, having only done our duty as an agricultural writer, and our sole object now is to place the subject in its true light. In a late number of the *Rural New Yorker* we find an article under the head of "Western Editorial Notes," entitled the "Early May Cherry," from the pen of C. D. Bragdon, the Western editor of that valuable paper, and which we give entire:

THE EARLY MAY CHERRY.

"I have just received from my friend, Hon. M. L. Dunlap, his *Illinois Farmer* for October, in which he announces to his readers that he has visited James Wakeman, 'the owner of the large orchard of the May Cherry,' &c., &c. It is the same James Wakeman of whom the writer wrote in his notes published in the *Rural* July 13th. It will be remembered that I wrote of the *Early Richmond* cherry—it being the one cultivated by Mr. Wakeman.

Now the cherry referred to is either the Early Richmond, or it is not. Mr. Wakeman calls it the Early Richmond; Mr. Dunlap the Early May, or rather the 'May Cherry,' which is, according to Elliott, a *synonym* for the Early May, which is the right name for a cherry described on page 217 of Elliott's Fruit Book. The question is, *which* cherry is Mr. W. cultivating in his orchard and sending all over the country? If it is the Early Richmond, as he believes, and which the writer believes it is, according to Elliott, it ought not to be called the Early May or the May Cherry by any one; especially should it be correctly called by our venerable friend, so long identified with pomological matters in the West. If, on the other hand, Wakeman is wrong and Dunlap is right in calling it the Early May, the question ought to be established beyond a doubt, and the public taught to call it by its proper name.

"The writer believes the cherry cultivated so successfully by Mr. Wakeman, and his neighbor, Mr. Case, to be the Early Richmond, without the shadow of a doubt; and he does *not* believe the Early Richmond and the Early May identical, by any manner of means; therefore he believes his friend Dunlap unmistakably wrong in calling Wakeman's cherry anything else than the Early Richmond,—and this conviction is expressed with the most profound respect for Mr. Dunlap's age, experience and wisdom.

"The writer has carefully compared the fruit grown in Mr. Wakeman's orchard with the description given by Elliott, several times, and believes it to be identical. Elliott calls it productive, as it is; he also calls it worthy general cultivation—'indispensable to every garden'—which is true. But he places the Early May in the list 'unworthy of cultivation,'—which is the right place for it, as it has been found throughout this State by the writer.

A case in point. A few weeks since I visited Mr. Dunlap and our mutual friend H. L. Brush, Esq., of Ottawa. We had been walking through the vineyard and orchard, when we came upon a group of cherry trees. 'There,' said he, 'are some of our friend Dunlap's Early May cherry trees!'

'Well, what do you think of them? Are they productive? and are they identical with the Early Richmond?'

'Why, you know Mr. Dunlap claims they are identical; but the Early May I got from him are worthless. They are unproductive, and kill down here winters; while the Early Richmond which we get from Wakeman and Kennicott bear early, are hardy and extremely productive.'

"I repeat this conversation to show that the cherry which my friend Dunlap sold to Mr. Brush as Early May is radically unlike that obtained from Mr. Wakeman as Early Richmond. The dissimilarity, according to the testimony of Mr. Brush, is a very important one indeed—precisely the same, substantially, as that made by Elliott.

"The trees referred to were sold Mr. Brush some years since; doubtless Mr. Dunlap has the Early Richmond now; indeed, the writer is confident he has seen it on his grounds; but if he has, and is selling it as the early May, or May cherry, he is, in my opinion, committing a serious pomological sin—and I have greater respect for his venerable self.

"It is a matter of not a little importance, this question in nomenclature, and ought to be settled. Will my friend D. aid in doing it?

We have never positively asserted that it was not the identical early Richmond, though we believe that it is not that, but a sub-variety closely resembling it in both fruit and tree; this the readers of the TRIBUNE will recall to mind.

We have before said that the May cherry has, for many years, been known in Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana, that the first trees introduced into Northern Illinois were brought from Ohio or Indiana, by Mr. Bronson, to the vicinity of Lockport, Will county, about the year 1850. Mr. James W. Wakeman, of Cottage Hill, procured trees or cions of Mr. Bronson. These trees, coming into bearing, with their abundant crops of fine fruit, attracted the attention of the writer, and in the spring of 1855 we procured several assorted trees of Mr. Wakeman, most of which were sent out to our customers from the nursery at Leyden, and which we believe to be the first general dissemination of this valuable fruit in the Northwest.

The trees alluded to by Mr. H. L. Brush in the above article, as having been sent him as the May cherry by us, and which proved to be worthless, were not the May cherry but the Kentish or pie cherry so common in New York. They were billed to him as 12 Kentish cherry, April 26, 1853, two years before we came into the possession of the May cherry, and before we had become satisfied of its value. Mr. B. is therefore in error in regard to receiving the May cherry of us, as he will at once see by the letter to him of that date. The Kentish, though hardy and productive in New York, is of no value here, as time has abundantly proved. The May cherry of Elliott is not the one in question, his is "a Morello, with small fruit, round, slightly flattened, lively light red, fresh, tender, juicy, acid—unworthy of cultivation." On the other hand, the May cherry under consideration is remarkably productive in Ohio and the West generally, is of medium size, skin of a light red, growing nearly black when fully ripe, and generally the stone adheres to the stem and can be readily drawn out with it. Hooper in his Western Fruit Book, says the Early May is so very like the Early Richmond, that the distinction is hardly worth making. Both very productive and excellent for Cincinnati. He also says that the Early May hangs long on the trees. Until within a few weeks Mr. Wakeman called this cherry the Early May, after the name given him by Mr. Bronson, and for what reason he changed it to Early Richmond is best known to himself, for we do not believe that he has a tree of the Early Richmond, as known in New York, or from that source, in his grounds, or has ever seen one in bearing other than the ones produced under the name of Early May from Mr. Bronson.

It is a well known fact that most if not all of the trees produced in New York called Early Richmond are dead, and have never attracted any attention. It is true that the Mazzard stock upon which they were grafted was too tender for this climate, and hence the loss of trees; nor has the much landed Mahaleb been much more fortunate, and what is stranger still, that the Early Richmond to be considered genuine and productive must trace their paternity to the grounds of Mr. Wakeman, and that Early Richmond trees from New York are of no value, while the May cherry of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois are equally productive, valuable and identical with this Early Richmond of Wakeman. There is nothing strange in this, when we know that his trees came from the same source and not from New York. Nurserymen in those States persist in calling it the May cherry. Now, if the Early Richmond of Downing is equally as hardy, or as Mr. Bragdon assumes, why has the fact of its value not become known years before this. We have at different times purchased the Early Richmond in New York, but the trees always winter killed before they fruited, and we are free to confess that in all our journeying through the State, we have never seen an Early Richmond tree in bearing. The May cherry almost always produces fruit the second year after grafting, which is not the case, as far as we know, with the Early Richmond. We can point to two of the latter, from the nursery of Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry, now three inches in diameter, that have not fruited, and these dwarfs on Mahaleb stocks.

These are the points of difference that we make, that the May cherry is more drooping in its habit, bears younger, and is more productive and hardy for the prairies. That it is not the Early May of either Downing or Elliott, but the cherry well known throughout the State, named as the MAY CHERRY. As Mr. Bragdon says, it is time that the nomenclature of this fruit was set at rest, but we confess that the way to do it at the next meeting of the State Horticultural Society, on the 3d December, is not so clear. With such a close similarity of fruit, of habit, of maturity and of foliage, without having been tested side by side, we would ask who will take the responsibility of saying that they are, or are not, identical, though as we have before stated, we believe they are not the same. Yet we are not prepared for a decided vote, for we want another season to give us the opportunity of a more thorough investigation. There is one great fact in all this, let the thing be called what it will. It is the only one thus far that gives ample testimony of hardiness and reliability of good crops on the prairie. RURAL.

☞ A Washington dispatch of the 18th says the affair of Messrs. Fouke and Conway is still unadjusted. It is believed now that it will culminate in a street fight whenever they meet.

Miscellaneous.

TO INVENTORS.
COBURN & MARKS,
Attorneys at Law and Patent Right Solicitors, Chicago, Ill. Office, No. 11 Larmon's Block, 90 Clark street. Branch Office, Washington, D. C.
All business strictly confidential. Circulars sent gratis. P. O. Box 4443.

NEW STEAM BAKERY.—The subscribers have opened a wholesale and retail Bakery establishment at No. 200 Randolph street, for the manufacture and sale of Crackers, Bread, Cakes and Pies, all of which will be found to be of superior quality and excellence.
The facilities we have for doing a large business are such as will enable us to fill all orders promptly, with which we are favored. Country Merchants will do well to give us a call before purchasing elsewhere.
THOMPSON & TEMPLETON,
P. O. Box 1206. 200 Randolph street.
S. THOMPSON. N. TEMPLETON.

NOTICE.—Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Addison Farmer's Mutual Insurance Company will be held at the office of said Company in the Town of Addison, in the County of Du Page, on SATURDAY, the 11th day of January, 1862, at 9 o'clock.
HENRY D. FISCHER, Secretary.

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Legal Notices.
SHERIFF'S SALE.—By virtue of a writ of execution, issued from the [...] of Cook County [...]
Dated the 12th day of November, [1861].
SHERIFF'S SALE.—By [...]
SHERIFF'S SALE.—By [...]
SHERIFF'S SALE.—By [...]